

FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER 1996

WEATHER: Hazy sunshine

40p (IR 45P)



# 'We cut their throats – bullets are too precious'

with Algeria's Islamist guerrilla



Comment

Suzanne Moore sings out for abortion

page 23





## Civil war in Downing Street

Downing Street, with the Prime Minister and Kenneth Clarke briefing against each other in a lethal political battle that could yet kill all Tory chances of win-

ning the next election. Tony Blair said in Scotland last night: "This Government is now descending into disorganised shambles. Things simply

cannot go on like this." The deep and irreconcilable rift between Number 10 and Number 11. the Chancellor next door, was fully exposed

Civil war has broken out in to the Prime Minister's statement on the single currency.

The denials had to be issued because the Labour frontbencher Frank Dobson revealed that the Chancellor had lunched with the BBC correspondent at a Mayfair restaurant on Wednesday.

But the same broadcast then - just as sensationally – fingered John Major as the source of Monday's controversial Daily Telegraph report, which said the Prime Minister would fight the next election on a policy of saving sterling from the single curwhen Mr Clarke was forced to

of a painstaking agreement reached by Mr Major and Mr Clarke last April – forcing Mr Major to repudiate the story in the Commons on Tuesday.

But George Jones, the Tele-graph's political editor, told BBC's World at One: "I did have passed on to me comments which are understood to have come directly from the Prime

While the Tory leadership scrapped with a fury that re-minded many of the geological fault that brought Margaret Thatcher down - following her

Nigel Lawson and the Deputy economic conditions were not ministers would quit was sen- told friends, 'It was a Tory conference. - last night's weekly meeting of the backbench 1922 Committee erupted into one of the most dramatic and passionate de-

bates one senior Tory could remember in more than 20 years. In a debate that centred on the single currency, the biggest roar went to the Euro-sceptic Sir Peter Tapsell - who said that whatever anyone else said, sterling should "never" go into a sin-

from left and right of the party encapsulated the Tory agony, with Tim Yeo and David Heath-

issue two denials of separate rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements made in a BBC rapartite rency for the lifetime of the next statements are not statements. moersmo oi me m wave of the single currency.

According to the BBC's John Sopel, one of Mr Clarke's hosts on Wednesday: "The real irony is that Mr Clarke privately admits there is no chance that if the Tories won the next election. the party would agree to entering the single currency.

Nevertheless, Mr Sopel added: "He is making it clear that the policy is not negotiable, and that if it did change, not But two former ministers only would he go, but he predicts that a large number of middle-ranking and junior ministers would go with him."

The idea that Mr Clarke and Prime Minister. But he has and counter-briefing during the cellor's apparent view that the Conservative Party would split wide open was staggering.

Within the hour, however, Mr Clarke was forced to issue a statement saying: "I don't regard the BBC account of this week's events as accurate. I didn't threaten to resign and I am not threatening to resign."

Mr Sopel also said a number of other things that were naturally pinned on the Chancellor, including a view of the Telegraph report. "Ken Clarke doesn't doubt that the source of the sto-ry was someone close to the an allegation about briefing doubt that the source of the sto-

poomerai aen wiln nigh ex plosives which has blown up in the Prime Minister's face. In the Commons, Mr Major

was directly challenged about the BBC report when the Labour MP Thomas McAvoy. "Do you agree with your Chancellor [that] a boomerang. wrapped in high explosive has

blown up in your face?" Holding a piece of paper, Mr Major said he had Mr Clarke's statement denying the report.

But that was not the only denial floating around Whitehall.

MIL 20DG scenes. Mr Clarke was furious that senior Conservative Central Office sources were briefing against him. They were telling the newspapers that the wait-and-see policy would be gone by the New Year, after the forthcoming Dublin summit.

Last night, Conservative Central Office issued a state-ment from Mr Clarke and Dr Mawhinney, repudiating any suggestion of conflict. Few believed it - any more than that the Downing Street war will end in

anything but tears. Revenge of loyalists, page 2

taxing imaging

## The superbug that munches medicine

Glenda Cooper

Mansell

jordan

At other racing

A "superbug" which feeds off the antibiotic used to kill it has been found in two patients at a London hospital, the medical journal The Lancet reports tomerrow.

In a matter of days, the bacterium enterococcus faecium, a common species found in the gut, managed not only to develop resistance to the antibiotic vancomycin but also mutated so that a strain became dependent on the drug for its sur-

Doctors at St George's Hos-pital in London admitted a 60year-old man with a ruptured oesophagus in February 1996. After an operation he developed an infection. One of the causes of his infection was found to be E. tion warned earlier this year. Sci-

faecium and he was treated with antibiotics, but became feverish again after another operation. E. aecium which had been susceptible to the antibiotic vancomycin was now resistant to it and a strain of the bug was found to actually require vancomycin for its growth. The patient was treated

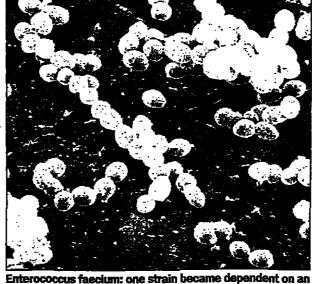
with alternative antibiotics and made a full recovery In the same month, a 64year-old retired nurse was ad-mitted to the same hospital for a routine operation. He developed an infection afterwards, and vancomycin-resistant and vancomycin-dependent strains of Efaecium were isolated. He too

eventually recovered. Resistance to antibiotics is becoming increasingly common, as the World Health Organisaentists have called for stricter controls over administering antibiotics as the lifespan of drugs shortens all the time.

But it is extremely rare for bacteria to be able to go through such a huge evolutionary change

in such a short space of time.
"It is absolutely fascinating the way it takes such evolutionary steps. It would take man 10 miltion years to achieve such a change," said Dr Ian Elvingham, a clinical microbiologist at London's Tooting Public Health Laboratory. "The kill becomes the cure for the bug. The ultimate step in the evolution of resistance is when an organism only grows in the presence of an antibiotic ... Have we at last witnessed the

emergence of a true superbug?" But he stressed that there was no major public health concern.



antibiotic for its survival Photograph: Science Photo Library

disappears," said Dr Eltring- noured.

Vancomycin can only be admin- ham. "Doctors need to increase istered through the veins and is surveillance of the situation and only used in intensive care and there should be a raised level of specialist units. "As soon as the awareness but if I see another vancomycin is stopped the bug case in my career I would be ho-

#### QUICKLY

England humiliated England's cricketers lost by sev-en wickets to Mashonaland, a earn containing six part-timers, in the opening first-class match of their tour of Zimbabwe. Mike Atherton, the England captain, went for an X-ray amid fears that a screw from an earlier operation on his back may have come

Sectarian attacks

A family of four escaped a petrol-bomb attack, the latest in series centred on Co Antrim which police believe are the work of loyalists protesting because Protestant marches have been prohibited from parading through the Catholic town of Page 2

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## Santa's

163481418

## Major staggers in pensions row

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Tory MPs were in open revolt last night over a £50m cut in war pensions and the Government was facing an igno-minious retreat over the plan, under which benefits would be withdrawn for future claimants suffering from hearing loss.

The Prime Minister resisted the demands for a retreat had happened. but after one of his most acrimonious clashes with Tony Blair in the Commons, Tory MPs accused John Major of and warned they would not matically directing claimants arose over a reversal in med- dependent has obtained, show £2.32m appeal.

They said it was one of the worst performance that they had seen from the Prime Minister, adding to the impression of a government which has

lost its grip on events. Mr Major, clearly angered by Mr Blair's attack, snapped at him that "despite his piety" he had "misconstrued" what

The Conservative MPs were incandescent with anger at leaked Whitehall papers £35m on cuts in payments for showing that benefit officials loss of hearing and £15m on "inept" handling of the issue will be stopped from auto- administration. The savings

defend it in their constituen- to the Royal British Legion.

"I will not go back to my constituency and say that I have just had a socking great pay increase but we are going to kick the war pensioners in the teeth," said one former minister. "Major must have taken leave of his senses."

Another Tory backbencher said: "It is under-hand, meanspirited and a total disgrace. hey will have to hack down." Labour last night insisted that the total savings would be

impaired by noise from explosions or gunfire, disqualifying future war pensioners from extra benefit for loss of

Clearly seeing the storm brewing, Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, in a leaked letter to William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said: "All my ministers were against this move and it is not something we would choose to do but in the end is not a matter over which there is any choice."

ical advice that hearing was that Mr Lilley asked for four further measures to buy off the pensioners' lobby. The measures were: to

make payment for funeral expenses for war-disablement pensioners, costing £60,000 a year: improving clothing allowances for war-disablement pensioners costing £350,000 a year, ending the distinction between ranks in payment of gratuities for service-related disablement at an undisclosed cost; and a goodwill payment to be made to the Chaselev home for severely disabled The papers, which The In- war pensioners towards an

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## Revenge of the Loyalists: **Prevented** from marching they turn to torching

David McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

A family of four narrowly escaned with their lives in a petrol-bomb attack early yesterday in the latest of a wave of sectarian arson attacks and intimidation centred on County

The petrol bomb, believed to be the work of loyalists, set the living-room of the house alight as the four - a Protestant woman, her two children and her Catholic boyfriend - were in bed upstairs.

In two other attacks, which police believe were carried out by the same gang, a device was thrown at a Catholic home but failed to ignite, while a Catholic primary school was extensively damaged and had to

These and a series of other attacks are linked to a hitter and long-running dispute in which loyalists have been picketing Catholics attending mass at a chapel in the mainly Protestant

town of Ballymena.

The loyalists say they are protesting because Protestant marchers have been prohibited from parading through the nearby Catholic town of

Such disputes are normally associated with the loyalist marching season, which comes to an end in August, but the picketing has now gone on for 11 weekends. Unpleasant scenes have resulted, and last week the protest degenerated into violence, with loyalists burning a bus and throwing a petrol-bomb at police.

Fears are growing that further violence may follow this

The petrol-bomb attacks are the latest in a series of scores



inside the petrol-bombed house in Ballymena from which a family of four escaped

of incidents in County Antrim, Belfast and elsewhere in Northern Ireland which have persisted since the July standoff at Drumcree and subsequent disturbances.

In most cases Catholic property and families have been attacked, but there bave also been numerous instances of attacks on Protestant targets. Early yesterday, for example, a malicious fire was started inside

ireland Correspondent

Constabulary.

Brussels

place by 2001.

A new public-opinion survey in Northern Ireland has provided

fidence in the Royal Ulster

Policing sources privately acknowledge that nationalist faith

in the RUC is at its lowest point

since the introduction of in-

ternment without trial in 1971.

The reason most often given for

the drastic loss of confidence is

Drumcree and the other dis-

The Northern Ireland Police

turbances of the summer.

stown, Co Tyrone, damaging the pulpit. Catholic churches have been

a favourite target, especially in the County Antrim area, but schools have also suffered.

Two weeks ago the Government said there had been arson and other malicious attacks to more than 20 schools. causing damage estimated at more than £3m. A number of schools have been attacked

Catholics lose faith in the

Authority, which oversees the work of the RUC and which

commissioned the survey, has

admitted that it represents "bad

news". It has suggested a pro-

creasing confidence, but its members concede that there are

The survey in effect con-

firms the worst fears of those who believed that the RUC's

performance during the traumas

of the summer has resulted in

a Catholic crisis of confidence

in policing. The signs had pre-

viously been that nationalist

respect for the police had been

The statistics illustrate the

gradually on the increase.

no quick fixes.

Yesterday the Catholic but I couldn't, so I and the girl boyfriend of the Protestant woman whose house was burnt described the incident: "Suddenly the window broke and a petrol-bomb came through the window and the house went on

"I went in, lifted the two chil-dren out of their beds and rushed them down the stairs and out through the front door. "I came back in to see if I

back, and the task facing the

new Chief Constable, Ronnie

Flanagan, in restoring his

well-established pattern the lev-

el of mistrust has now reached

new heights, with two-thirds of

Catholics believing the police

treat Protestants better than

In the key area of parades and

public order, 63 per cent of

Catholic respondents expressed

little or no confidence in the po-

lice to act fairly. As far as the

The findings show a huge gap between Catholic and Protes-but there is already clear anxi-

tant acceptance of the RUC's ety that the summer conbona fides. Although this is a frontations could be repeated.

force's reputation.

Catholics.

ple murder case here. They could do anything about the fire,

significant shorts

#### Eggs thrown at the Queen by protesters

Protesters threw eggs at the Protesters threw eggs at the royal motorcade as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited a university yesterday. When the royal couple arrived at Manchester Metropolitan University to dedicate the new humanities

faculty, around 160 students, lecturers and left-wing agitators chanted "Axe the Queen, not our grants". Supt Alan Green, of Greater Manchester Police said four or five eggs had been thrown at the motorcade, but none hit police or the Queen's

and was being questioned in connection with a public order offence, he added. A university spokeswoman said the Queen seemed untroubled by the protest Earlier, the Queen and the Duke toured the bombdamaged city centre and met members of the emergency services who were on duty at the time of the massive IRA

car. One youth was arrested

#### Aids vaccine fails in trial

A vaccine used to treat HIV patients to help prevent their condition deteriorating to full-blown Aids did not benefit them, according to a

new study.

The Lancet reports that the vaccine MNrgp120 was used in a double-blind placebo-controlled trial of more than 550 patients infected with HIV but showing no symptoms. After 15 months, it was clear that the vaccination did not affect the CD4 blood cell count, a decline of which is thought to correlate with the progression of HIV infection. Glenda Cooper

Photograph: Alan Lewis

and the kids just stood outside

chief inspector Roger McCal-lum said: "I believe this was

probably the latest manifesta-

lence which we have seen in

Ballymena in the past week.

"We are very fortunate that we are not looking at a quadru-

quarters of Catholics believed

police had treated Protestant

demonstrators better A com-

mission is examining the ques-

The figures show that more

than half of all those ques-

tioned, both Protestant and

Catholic, believe that the RUC

should undergo significant

change. Eighty-two per cent of Catholics said it should be re-

formed, replaced or disbanded

while more than a third of

Protestants agreed that the force

should be reformed or replaced.

The draft treaty notes that every

member state except Britain wants

tion of regulation of marches.

ion of naked sectarian vio-

Royal Ulster Constabulary

and watched.

#### Lottery cash for museum

The Imperial War Museum has been offered a lottery grant of £12.6m towards the final stage of its long-term redevelopment, including galleries for a permanent exhibition about the

Holocaust - study of which is on the National Curriculum. Matching offers of private funds for the redevelopment include £1m each from the Wolfson and Rubin foundations and £250,000 from Marks and Spencer.

begin next summer. Stephen Goodwin

#### Olivier's son to direct at Globe

Richard Olivier, son of the late Lord Olivier, will direct one of the opening productions for the first full season of the reconstructed Globe Theatre in London next June.

Henry V, directed by Richard Olivier and starring Mark Rylance, the Globe's artistic director, will start the season along with The Winter's Tale directed by David Freeman. Henry V will be performed in Elizabethan costume and The Winter's Tale in modern dress.

Construction of the theatre's permanent stage will be complete by the summer, and the public will still able to watch in Elizabethan style from the courtyard where tickets will be priced at £5.

#### **BBC** presenter switches to C4

Former Crimewatch presenter Sue Cook is quitting the BBC after 20 years to front a major antiques show for Channel 4. Ms Cook, 47, worked on Crimewatch for 11 years after joining the corporation in

In the 13-week series, go out four times a week, starting on 13 January.

#### Outrage over slaughter of cormorants

Bird-lowers yesterday expressed "outrage and disgust" that anglers are killing cormorants, a protected species, to preserve fish stocks.

They were responding to a report in The Angling Times which revealed the existence of "comporant hit squads" which are breaking the law by shooting dozens of birds at a time. Landowners are hiring them in an attempt to protect their waters from the rising cormorant population. Ther are believed to be more than 7,000 breeding pairs in Britain, and many have moved inland to feed in freshwater

fisheries. Cormorants may be shot only under licence, and then shooters can only kill six a season. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is currently leading a three-year investigation into their effect on fish stocks.

#### Duchess of Kent has ME

The Duchess of Kent is suffering from ME and has had to pull out of all her official engagements, it

emerged yesterday.
The 63-year-old Duchess is resting at her home, St lames's Palace, on the advice of doctors. A spokesman said: "Her doctors have told her to cut back... It is nothing too serious. She is just rather tired in general terms. She has been advised to take it casy. because that will help her recovery." As a result, the Duchess had with regret declined all other official invitations since the summer. he said."In herself, she is fine," but some days she was particularly fatigued.

#### Tate exhibition stirs debate

The Tate Gallery will celebrate its centenary next year in a manner certain to incite artistic debate and acrimony by exhibiting its 1(X) 'most significant" works.

Tate curators have so far chosen 87 works for the exhibition, called Tate 100, which will open next May. They range from Hogarth and Constable and Blake to the Pre-Raphaelites, Turner, the surrealists, Cézanne, Rodin Subject to the museum raising and Matisse. It is among 20th another £1m, construction can century artists that there are the most glaring omissions.

Art critic Brian Sewell described the works so far selected as "a dog's dinner of elementary art history dotted with old favourites and what the panjandrums believe to be good for us. It is almost without rhyme or reason, far more remarkable for its

omissions than its inclusions" As part of its centenary celebrations, the Tate will extend its opening hours to Sunday mornings from 10am

#### Pilot guilty o drug runnin

after walking into a propellit was yesterday found guilty of importing more than £100.0 worth of cannabis into Britis

Graham Jones, 38, was convicted by a Winchester ' Crown Court jury of 👚 importing 20 kilos of the drug. and will be sentenced on 29 December, His passenger Graham Marples, 44, who was travelling on a false passeors never recovered from his injuries and died in hospital five weeks after the accident

#### University pay dispute

The pay dispute at unive - which last month prompted. an unprecedented 34-hour strike at more than 200 institutions with the threat of more disruption to come - is to go to the conciliation ... service Acas. White-collar staff, including academics administrators and technician have been offered 1,5 per cent and manual workers 2.5 per cent. Barrie Clement

#### to bring social policy into the upare proposed. Europol, the existforeign policy to give EU greater "standing and visibility". A polidated treaty. In effect this would require the scrapping of Britain's cy planning unit with "early warnsocial policy opt-out. The Irish ing" capacity to forsee likely Presidency, however, recognising flashpoints should be set up in the difficulty this will present suggests that a full debate on this mai The practice of appointing a "troiter should be postponed until ka" of three foreign ministers to later in the negotiations. To

Far reaching proposals for new European power-sharing, to be presented to foreign ministers in Brussels today, will fuel controversy in Britain over the agenda for European reform. The pro-

posals, drafted by the Irish presidency, focus on these key areas: Immigration and asylum New treaty articles are suggested for creation of an area of dom, security and justice." The new procedures should all be in Countries should first abolish

all border controls for citizens of the European Union and thirdcountry nationals moving between internal EU frontiers. At the same time states would enforce joint measures on controlling the entry of third-country nationals at external frontiers. Countries should then adopt common rules on asylum and arrangements for receiving asylum seekers. Rules for accepting immigrants should be harmonised for entry and residence. Common rights for nationals of third countries living in the EU will also be required. European Commission, for the first time, to have wide new powers to propose measures in these areas. European Court of Justice to have new power of enforcement. Possibility of some states opting out of the measures is considered.

Policing and security A European police force and a criminal intelligence bureau alone nce bureau along the lines of the United States FBI Edited text of draft document for **Dublin European summit** 

Far reaching proposals for

**European power-sharing** 

ing data network, should develop 'operational" powers, which would include "operational actions of joint teams" from different The new force would have

powers to act against drug trafickers, interational criminals, terrorist groups and sex-offender networks. States should harmonise criminal laws to improve cross-border co-operation in combating international crime. Prosecuting authorities and justice ministries should establish close ties to share information.

Human rights and discrimination New treaty articles to ensure all member states observe agreed human rights standards. Action could be taken against states which breach the rules.

The EU's Council of Ministers would have powers to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnic or social origin, religious belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. More power for European Commission to propose measures to ensure the application of equal opportunites and treatement at work, including equal pay. Policy enacted by the Council of Ministers by qualified majority.

defence

A more coherent joint foreign policy for Europe. The draft text says a high level figure should be ap-

represent Europe abroad should be abolished - the country holding the presidency would represent the union abroad. The use of the veto in foreign policy making should be drastically reduced. Even where votes are still taken by unanimity, member states would be unable to block other countries from going ahead with a policy decision. "Constructive abstention" would allow a country which objects the right not to take part in a foreign policy action, but not to stop others enforcing it. Where member states are considering military action or when they are discussing defense questions the veto could be used

Security and defence

for stated reasons of national

The draft states that there is convergence towards the view"that the union should have power to use "military means" to pursue humanitarian and peacekeeping tasks. The Western European Union, which is the EU's fledgling military arm, would carry out these tasks. The text does not propose bringing the WEU inside the EU's decision making procedures, but suggests close co-

Britain's dismay it has however called for the incorporation of a legally binding treaty chapter on employment enshrining the goal of a high level of job creation. The Prime Minister has already warned against any attempt to transfer powers to Brussels in this sphere. Under the proposed chapter the EU would be endowed with a "coordinating" role over the efforts of member states to combat unemployment. Member states are asked to "work towards a common strategy for employment" and to regard this question as "a matter of common

concern". The most provocative recommendations are that the European Commission would draw up "guidlines" for employment each year which would be agreed by majority voting. Each member state would have to provide Brussels with an annual report on its employment policy

The Irish text refers to a "broad measure of support" for the proposals although stresses that some governments want to go even further for example to bring in sanc-tions. But it admits that others are "not convinced" that an employment chapter is justified.

1976. However, despite submitting a number of ideas for new programmes to the

entitled Collectors' Lot, Ms Cook will visit country houses and ordinary homes across Britain. The programme will

#### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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RACK ISSUES



In this week's Radio Times, Andrew Duncan reveals the personality behind the glasses of the Australian megastar and discovers some unusual findings.

RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

news

Kenneth Clarke is the latest in a long line of politicians who have ended up in the soup after a free meal

int shorts

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Duchess of Kent has ML

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MPs rue the lunch

that repeats on them

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

The lighting was discreet, confit of duck was on the menu, the atmosphere was congenial. Seated on a sofa bordered by elegant honeyed panelling, the Chancellor of the Exchequer was chatting amiably to two

BBC political correspondents. Twenty feet away in the £50a-head Chez Nico at Ninety Park Lane, Labour's environment spokesman was lunching with another BBC man, political editor Robin Oakley.

From where Frank Dobson sat, Kenneth Clarke may have looked like a man who was simply enjoying a good lunch and an expansive chat, but he had just fallen into a trap which had ensnared several of his fellowpoliticians in the past. Mr Clarke was telling Mark

Mardell and Jon Sopel that he and a number of middle-ranking ministers would resign if the Government changed its stance on Europe. Within 24 hours, he was to be forced to derry that he had any intention of doing so.

The only exceptional thing about the meal was its three Michelin stars. Politicians enjoy meeting journalists not only to pass on stories but also to hear gossip about their colleagues

and - crucially - themselves. But if Mr Clarke had read his

Food for gossip: Dining with the senior sources

1 Witton's, (fish, private booths), Jermyn St. serious grandees (Heseltine, Alan Clark), Max Hastings, Evening Standard editor 2 The Garrick Ctoh, Garrick St. members include Kenneth Clarke, Nigel Lawson, Sir Patrick Mayhew, Ian Altken, Alan Watkins

vacasis 3 Simpson's, The Strand: Cabinet traditionalists, there for the roast beef and sticky toffee pudding 4 Rules, (game), Maiden Lane: Ministers of State, Nick Wood, Express political editor

Simply Mico, (French), Rochester Row: Crowded with ministers, Blair Inner circle also Robin Oakley, BBC political Auberge de Provence,(Provencal), in St James's Ct hotel, Buckfagham Gate: Cabinet ministers, Michael Brunson, ITW

Olivo, Ecclaston St. Elinor Goodman, Channel 4 News Christopher's, Wellington St. Tory wets, the best newspape

witters | Savoy Grill, The Strand: Michael Heseltine, Alastair Goodlad.

Tory chief whip, Lord Archer
Tory chief whip

have had to look back far for a cautionary tale.

The most recent example of dinner-table disarray happened a couple of months ago at the TUC conference in Blackpool. when Labour's Stephen Byers told journalists over Dover sole at The Seafood Restaurant that his party wanted to weaken its

links with the unions. "I have learned to be careful who I choose to have dinner



on Wednesday, he would not day after being projected on to several front pages. This culinary tradition goes

history before he wentto lunch with," he said ruefully the next journalists who had just met Mr for-nothing unilateralism."

Channon in the Garrick Club were equally bemused by his protestations of innocence.

back much further than that and Only 10 months earlier, Neil Kinnock had beaten a similar is a dish frequently eaten with side-orders of obfuscation and retreat after a lunch with The Independent at L'Amico, near In March 1989, the then Westminster. The paper had retransport secretary Paul Chanported that Labour was about non professed himself to be "asto accept the Nato nuclear umtonished" by reports that the brella. Despite subsequent depolice were close to identifying telling the BBC that there was "no need now for a somethingthe terrorist who planted the Lockerbie bomb. The lobby



Genteel trap: Superb food maybe, but many a politician has had to eat his words after lunch Drawing: Advertising Archive

## Ireland's old Machiavelli keeps mum on cash scandal



Charles Haughey: did he receive

Alan Murdoch Dublin

At his palatial mansion in north Dublin, the former taoiseach Charles Haughey was observing a vow of silence yesterday over sug-gestions in a magazine that he was the Fianna Fail politician who received more than £1m in secret payments from the supermarket executive Ben Dunne.

The revelation that fat cheques from Mr Dunne went across the political spectrum is turning into the st and most compelling polit ical intrigue in Ireland for years.

Although no definitive statement was forthcoming from either the retired politician or his solicitors, a source close to the former party leader said he was strongly denying that he was the recipient,

Every conversation in Ireland this week has seemed to begin with "Well, who is it?" or a triumphant "Did you hear who it is?" Excitement was such that when the actor John Hurt walked into a Dublin pub popular with press and politicians no one batted an eyelid. Moments lat-

erupted in spontaneous cheering.

The idea that one of the holy mys-teries of Irish life, the source of Charles Haughey's considerable wealth, was taking another turn turned a glowing ember into a bushfire of frenzied speculation.

Agreeing that Mr Haughey was being dogged by "innuendo and rumour", the present Fianna Fail opposition leader, Bertie Ahern, said only publication of the accountants' report's behind the payments scandal could halt the rumours.

Price Waterhouse was called in to investigate how the family-owned supermarket and drapery group had been run by Mr Dunne soon after he was replaced by his elder sister Margaret Heffernan in 1993. The unpublished report is alleged to disclose payments to politicians, a newspaper executive and senior business figures by Mr Dunne, who ousted from the chairman's seat after a cocaine-and-drinks scandal in 1992 involving a Florida call-

secret payments totalling £1m? er, when the reporter who broke high-stakes gambling with other butions from Mr Dunne from 1987,

payments scandal entered, the bar millionaires. On golf courses he but denied they were in return for would bet thousands on each hole. promises of influence over policy de-As state lawyers and the Dunnes' advisers last night resumed discusadvisers last night resumed discussions, government sources said the finance, health and social welfare

family "were adopting a very con-structive and realistic attitude" to Confidence in Irish politicians has

rarely been at such a low ebb. Af- money.

It was the idea that one of the holy mysteries of Irish life: the source of charles Haughey's considerable wealth, was about to be solved'

ter the transport minister, Michael Lowry, quit last weekend following allegations that he received £208,000 from Mr Dunne, Mr Ahern told the Dail: "We cannot allow political lynchings or mob justice, or to have ministers sink beneath the waves of media hysteria and feeding frenzy."

The Taoiseach, John Bruton, ear-It had been widely known before ly yesterday confirmed his Fine Gael that that Mr Dunne was fond of party obtained £180,000 in contri-

How, Dubliners wondered, could someone in public office acquire a

mier in 1979. Along the way, the

250-acre estate in north Dublin complete with one of the capital's finest 18th century private houses and glorious gardens? (He later added a stud farm and wildlife reserve).

How could be afford a vacht, his own island off Kerry and a holiday home there? How could he fund top-class race horses, fine restau-

tractive women?

He had married well, to Maureen Lemass. daughter of an earlier taoiseach. Mr Haughey had ruministries before becoming premoured links to Dublin property developers. People marvelled at how he sustained his lifestyle on a paltry Dail Irish public came to associate him with a lavish lifestyle and spending

Mr Haughey's ascent was delayed by the drama of the 1970 arms trial, which left "the whiff of gunpowder" on his image, though he was acquitted of gun-running.

In 1988 it emerged that a visiting prince had bestowed a £150,000 diamond necklace and earrings on Mrs Haughey which were not left in state hands as protocol reonired. In the 1989 election an extravagantly funded campaign (locals reported "a river of Guinness ran through Dublin North-East") failed to get Mr Haughey's youngest child Sean into the Dail. He made it in

1992, his third attempt. Once-sympathetic commentators accused him of a "Me Fein" (myself alone) mentality. Mr Haughey sketches in popular radio satire dwelling on the sexual legend as much as the great statesman, were now accompanied by

rants and enjoy the company of at- The Godfather theme music. (Mr Haughey was portraved with unnerving effect by Dermot Morgan, now Channel 4's "Father Ted".)

Public cynicism refused to go away. Mr Haughey's character in itself became a national issue which divided the voters. In elections canvassers for his party were rebuffed with the words "I wouldn't give him the itch if I thought he would get warm on a cold day scratching himself". His party's patience finally ran out and in January 1992 it bade

Mr Haughey left the Dail in November that year, seemingly happy in patrician retirement, sailing around the Irish coast, riding his horse along Portmarnock Strand, and fund-raising for Ireland's National Gallery. That peace has now been

shattered. He survived so many "heaves" against his leadership that supporters once paraded with wry placards reading "Vilification Once Again," a play on the Republican anthem "A Nation Once Again". Under siege again this week, it is a fair het the man himself is now uttering those very

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## Shephard plans to make exams tougher

Judith Judd Education Editor

Standards in public exams appear to have remained much the same over the last 20 years, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, acknowledged yesterday.

After nearly a decade in which traditionalists and teachers have fought fiercely about whether rising exam grades meant higher standards or easier exams. Mrs Shephard said that there was no evidence of falling standards.

Despite an authoritative report which found that standards had not changed, she announced measures which aim to make GCSE and A-level

There will be more emphasis on grammar in GCSE English and a separate English Language GCSE. At both GCSE and A-level, the use of calculators will be restricted and the use of open books in English exams will be reviewed

A level English 1956 A-level English 1991

The Mayor of Casterbridge a. To what extent do the seeds of Michael Henchard's downfall lie b)Write an account of the life of Lucetta and show how; in their reactions to her, other people in the story reveal their own

Thomas Hardy: Jude the Obscure What can you find in the opening chapter which prepares

there was evidence of a slight

emphasis on topics such as rea-

spector of Schools, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme:

Chris Woodhead, Chief In-

soning and problem-solving.

At A-level, more pre-19th century literature will be compulsory. At present candidates must study Shakespeare and one other pre-19th century author out of eight texts. The new

requirement will be for four. The report from the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Government's exam advisers, and the Office for Standards in Education says that there is a shortage of evi-dence about the issue of standards because not enough past scripts are available.

Mrs Shephard said: "Today's report shows no hard evidence

pense to know less and less."

Mrs Shephard said she had been appalled by the lack of evidence from exam boards for the study. She called for a national archive of evidence about The most worrying feature of

that standards are falling but we have been looking at the past. It is the future that is importhe report was evidence of inconsistencies between svilabuses and exam boards. She wanted the four English exam The 50 independent examboards and three vocational iners who drew up the report on English, maths and chemistry at bodies reduced in number but she added: "I am not in favour GCSE and A-level found that of denying schools and colcandidates have to cover more leges choice and innovation by topics than 20 years ago. In nationalising all examination provision under a single board." However, David Blunkett, maths, the only subject in which fall in standards, there was less

that more and more students

are being educated for longer

and longer at greater public ex-

shadow Secretary of State for Education, said he was prepared to consider a single board for England and single boards for es and Scotland.

Leading article, page 21



Moment of ceremony: Pupils at the North West London Jewish Day School preparing to light candles yesterday for the beginning of Chanukah, the eight-day festival of lights

Photograph: John Voos

## Machete man 'felt need to get even with society'

A man charged with attempted July this year. Campbell, from murder after he went on the rampage with a machete in a nursery school told police he planned the attack a month before as a way of "getting even" with society, a jury heard yesterday. The court also heard that he felt an affinity with mass killers Thomas Hamilton and Martin Bryant.

Horrett Campbell, 33, an unemployed welder, told detectives that children at Luke's Infant School in Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, had teased him and called him a "loser", Stafford Crown Court was told.

Three children, aged between were injured in the attack on 8 the end of some sort of con-

Villiers House, a block of flats overlooking the school, denies seven charges of attempted murder - four adults and three children - but has admitted. lesser charges of wounding.

The jury heard that Campbell told police after his arrest that he had planned the attack a month before as he felt there

was a conspiracy against him. Asked what was going through his mind as he lashed out at the nursery children, Campbell replied: "That I was exonerating myself. Like, I was getting even for them letting me down and turning against me, three and four, nursery nurse the people at the school and

spiracy."
On 8 July, the court heard, he had got out of bed after midday and later "went to the school to attack some people. I had a bag with me to conceal my weapon.

He told police he had also carried a kitchen knife, a Fairy Liquid bottle full of petrol and two metal rods covered in foam, along with a lighter in his pock-

He explained that the petrol and rods were to be used as flamethrowers. "It came across my mind at one stage - just throw it at the school. I would petrol and probably thrown

He told police he approached drives a Volvo like me.".

the school from behind the neighbouring church, adding: decided I was going to go through with what I had planned. I jumped over the wall and I attacked them.

When questioned by police about a picture gallery, includ-ing pictures of Dunblane killer Thomas Hamilton and Australian mass murderer Martin Bryant, Campbell said he believed some good had come out of the Dunblane tragedy.

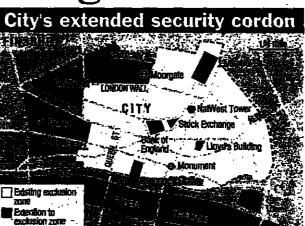
In police interviews, Campbell said he felt an affinity for Hamilton who had also been treated as "an outcast, like an oddball". probably have wet the sponge in Referring to Bryant, Campbell said: "He shot and killed some

## London's ring of steel to expand

The Corporation of London is to enlarge its "ring of steel" security zone to the west of the City, as police continue to crack down on the threat of further IRA bomb attacks.

The new scheme extends the traffic restrictions and police checkpoints set up after the IRA bomb attack on Bishopsgate in February 1993. It was agreed by Corporation councillors at a meeting at the Guildhall yesterday and will run for a trial period of six months starting early

The plan would extend the existing cordon to cover 75 per cent of the City, including St Paul's Cathedral and the Barbican. The Old Bailey, which was the target of an IRA bomb in the early 1970's will also come into the security zone for the



first time. The perimeter will run along Farringdon and New Bridge streets in the west, and West Smithfield, Beech and Chiswell streets in the north. Four new police checkpoints will

ria Street, Ludgate Hill, Holborn Viaduct and Aldersgate street. It will involve 14 changes including the creation of new access points and the closure of

many road junctions to vehicle

and plastic barriers will be erected as a short-term mea-

The £250,000 scheme was proposed and backed by the City of London Police, which has seen the existing cordon. contribute to a 16 per cent reduction in crime in the City since it was first erected in July

At yesterday's meeting, the Corporation was quick to point out that the new proposals will help ease congestion, reduce air pollution and make London's financial heart a safer place for pedestrians.

Michael Cassidy, chairman of the Corporation's Policy and Resources Committee said that since the last cordon was erected their has been a 40 per cent reduction in the number of also be set up at Queen Victo- traffic. Existing signs will be road traffic accidents.

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## Licence fee 'on the way

Marianne Macdonald Media Correspondent

The possibility that the BBC may be reaching the end of the licence fee era was publicly acknowl-edged for the first time yesterday by its most senior executive. in an unprecedented admis-

sion, Sir Christopher Bland, the corporation's chairman, accepted the prospect that the accrice fee might no longer exist in 15 or 20 years' time - or even in as little as five years.

The Tory MP Toby Jessel challenged him in a Heritage Select Committee hearing on the BBC and the future of broadcasting, asking: "If I were not an MP but a bookie, would you think I would be far out if I laid odds against the licence system still being here in 15 or 20 year's

Christopher said. He added: "But these are hard things to forecast and right now I think I can say fairly clearly we know we have the licence fee for five

For 75 years, the BBC has been funded by the licence payversal sharing of interest and the corporation argues it is the best method of ensuring the best service for the nation.

But the payment system is in danger of becoming an anachronism, with the explosion of satellite and cable, pay-per-view and the move to digital transmission. It is due to be re-

viewed by the Government in The notion that the licence fee could come to an end - not least because it could be difficult to justify in the context of 200 television channels and the loss of rights to major sporting events -

against laying blame. "There is dressed by the BBC. a lot of grief in the community Earlier. Sir Christopher had at the moment and there are a been forced again to acknowllot of sick people and beedge his lack of certainty about the survival of the licence fee. Sir "But John Barr has always John Gorst, another Tory MP. been good to this community. asked: "Do you foresee the li-He has always been kind and cence fee funding the BBC forprofessional. My housekeeper

"I'm chairman for another four years and five months." Sir Christopher replied ambiguously. "You can't look forever. It's



Closed for business: Many in Wishaw who were at first loyal to the Scottish Butcher of the Year, say they will not be going back to shop at John M Barr & Son

## Fall of a butcher they called a good man

Steve Boggan Chief Reporter

neral in four days.

to so many more.

The mood has turned in the small Scottish town at centre of food poison scandal

their meat pies, have since died."I am getting to the end of my tether," Mr Davidson said It was a cold, grey day in Wishaw yesterday as they cremated 71-year-old Jessie Rogerson. For the Rev James at Mr Gardiner's funeral. "I am Davidson, it was the third fulosing my friends and I am entrusted with burying them. It is The day before, his compovery painful, but God is giving

sure had failed him slightly, exme the strength to carry on." posing some of the deep pain Yesterday, the only good news he was feeling at the loss of so in Wishaw was that no one else many friends and the threat, had died. The number of peofrom the bacterium E. coli 0157, ple affected by the bug, however, continued to rise, with 24 new That was at the funeral of suspected cases being reported Alex Gardiner, 60, a former to Lanarkshire and Forth Valley health boards. The total number church elder and one of a group of confirmed cases was 191, of 78 pensioners who sat down

with another 166 suspected. to take a fateful meal at Wishaw Old Parish Hall in Lanarkshire Around 20 victims are giving on 17 November. Four of them doctors cause for concern, with one elderly woman described as are among the seven who, poisoned by E. coli in the gravy of "poorly" and seven children

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receiving dialysis treatment to cleanse their poisoned blood at the renal unit of Yorkhill Hospital in Glasgow.
As Lord Mackay, the Lord

Advocate of Scotland declared that the deaths would be the subject of a fatal accident inquiry - which could lead to criminal proceedings - the gloom around the town deepened. Wishaw is a small communi-

ty, badly affected by the loss of steel and coal production, particularly the closure of the Ravenscraig steel plant. When people heard that John Barr of John M Barr & Son, the Scottish Butcher of the Year and, arguably the town's favourite butcher, was being linked to the outbreak, they rallied to him.

He is variously described as kind, jovial, professional, dedicated and popular. But those who know him found their loyalties tested on Wednesday when the North Lanarkshire environmental services departsupplied cold meats for an 18th birthday party on 23 November, after its officers had twice asked him not to, having told him that

his shop was a possible source.

"He is a lovely man," said fellow butcher John Morrison, 25, of JM Butchers on Stewarton Street. "But selling that meat after he was told not to has changed the way a lot of people are thinking.

"Most people feel sorry for the warning, it changed every-him. Certainly my heart goes out thing. I won't be going back."

to him. He has been a great family butcher for about 30 years but he has made one mistake and it could cost him everything. A lot of people are saying they won't go back if he re-opens.

With sales of meat in the town down by 30 per cent, according to Mr Morrison, it will take some time to restore confidence. "l have shopped at Mr Barr's for more than 20 years and I always found the place absolutely im-maculate," said one woman. "At Christmas, we used to go round the back to fetch our parcels, and even the back was beautifully clean. I had planned to support him, but when I heard about the meat being sold after

The town seems torn by a genuine feeling, bordering on love, for Mr Barr, and its disappointment in the alleged illicit sale of meat. A number of people who attended the party where the meat was consumed have subsequently fallen ill.

"I was very surprised when I heard about that," said Marion Brown, a local pensioner. "I used to go in there but I found the reports about the wrongful sale of meat worrying. I will go back when he re-opens, but it will take time.

Mr Barr's large bungalow at nearby Overtown was empty yesterday. His shop and the small works that supplies more than 70 outlets was locked. Two signs thanked the community for

## Meet the family who put fun in dysfunctional

its support and said business would re-commence "as soon as

the present situation is resolved".

struggled with its admiration for

a good man and its anger that

he appears to have let himself

down, there was unequivocal

Canon Patrick McGovern of

St Ignatius's Church warned

has always bought my meat

from there and, when this is all

over, I shall ask her if she

wouldn't mind going back to Mr Barr's and buying it again."

support from one quarter.

reaved," he said.

But while the community



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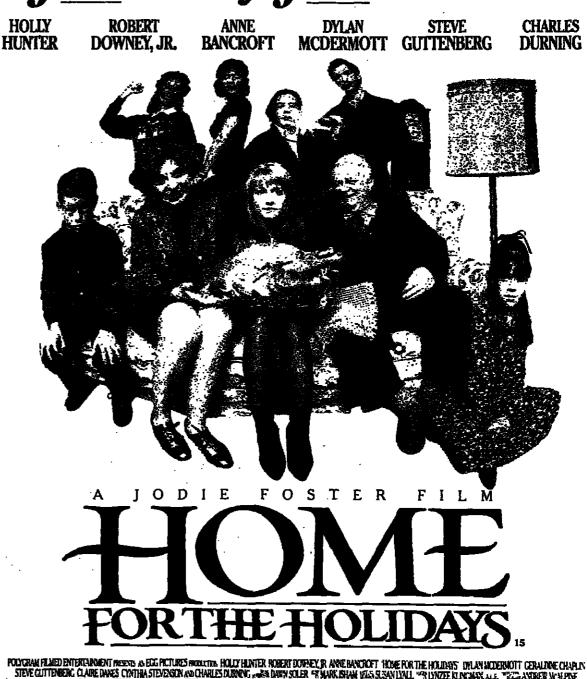
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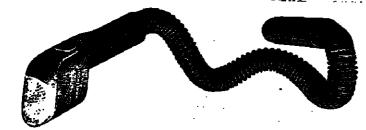
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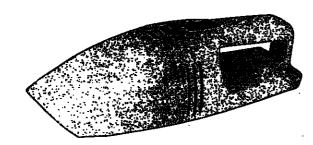
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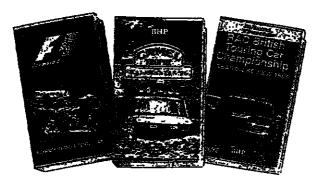
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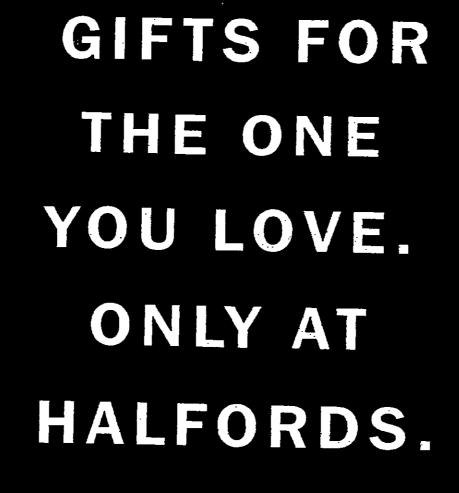
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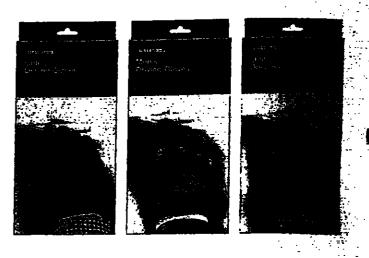


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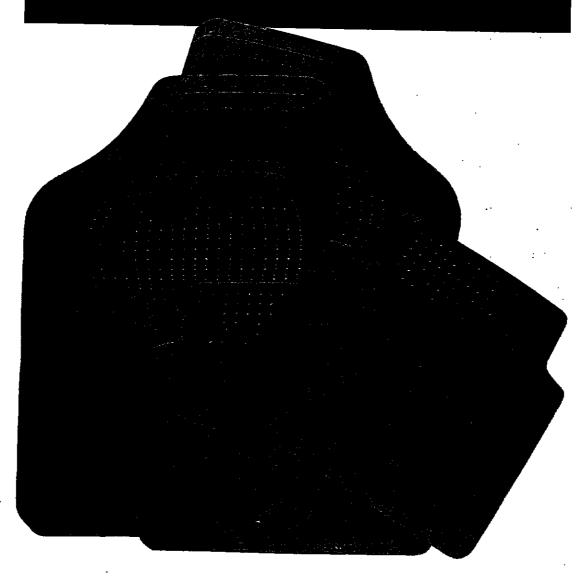
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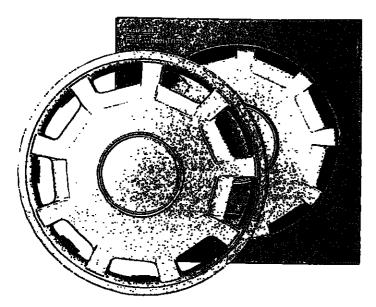
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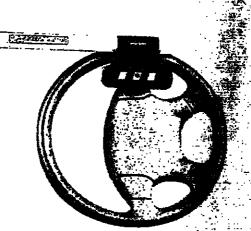
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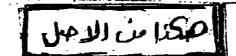
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## Sweeping penalties in new law on stalkers

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

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Sweeping laws to outlaw stalking and racial and neighbour harassment were finally introduced in the House of Commons yesterday.

Under the Protection from Harassment Bill, which anticipates 200 cases reaching the criminal courts each year, stalkers who cause their victims to fear for their safety would face five years' jail, an unlimited fine or both, regardless of what their in-

Stalking causing harassment, alarm or distress, whether or not intended, would carry a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment or a £5,000 fine, and is intended to catch lower-level intimidation such as unwanted phone calls or flowers, or the yelling of abuse from a neigh-

The Bill, which covers England & Wales and includes some Scottish provisions, was omitted from the Queen's Speech last month and left to be carried through by a Tory backbencher. But it was adopted as a Govemment measure minutes after Tony Blair, the Labour leader, promised his party's backing and challenged John Major to in-

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said: "These laws

who spread fear and distress such as stalkers, nightmare neigh-bours, bullies and racists, making them the victim of the criminal law."

Just two provable instances of words or behaviour putting a person in fear of violence or causing harassment, alarm or distress would technically be enough to trigger a criminal prosecution. There will be defences to the

criminal and civil measures, covering national security; prevention, detection or investigation of crime; and acting under statutory authority. Mr Howard said: "These laws would not prevent people from going about their lawful activity. The legitimate work of the police \_ journalists and others will be recognised and protected."

Jack Straw, Mr Howard's Labour shadow, said the measure would not provide a comprehensive solution to the problem of anti-social criminal behaviour. "The Government's acceptance that the Bill is likely to generate only 200 additional cases a year amounts to an admission of this," he said.

There was stronger criticism from Liberty, the civil liberties organisation, which said the new criminal offences were too widely drawn. "The criminal law already provides a range of measures to deal with all identified forms of behaviour idenwould turn the table on those tified as stalking," it said.



PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

Blar angrity demanded satisfactory replies on specifics, and testily answered back to shouts from the Conservative benches. His performance was good, but marred by his customary 'd-M.ijor-cannot-be-trusted with a little-how can wetrust-him-with-a-lot?" soundbite.

Major was riled by Blair's questions on war per-Major sions, and was more patronising than usual. His case started to lock shale, when he did not deny 4/10 the examples of alleged penny-pinching that Slavr put to him.

■ The referenceum on a single currency (Sir Teddy Taylor, C. Southend E)
■ War pensions (Alan Berth, Lib Dem, Bersrick upon Tweed)

· A-Level standards (Sir Rhodes Boyson, C. Brent Ni · European Court rolling on borders (Charles Wardle, C. Beahill and Battle)

BLAIR'S ATTACK

Insults were traded in an acrimonious session, by end of which both leaders looked ready to roll up their sleeves and take the light outside. Blan claimed that British war pensions would suffer £50m-worth of cuts as a result of the Budget. Major said Blair was just plain wrong. Blair challenged Major to budget wage and charges of penny-penching, "instead of all this patronising stuff about how we don't understand". Major responded with a dig at Bluer's



able to fit in questions on Europe, and could only after some rather weak day Thomas Mickey (Lab. Glasgow, gerel about a supposed inspection of Ruthergien) raised the question of the Treasury chest, dressed up as a question about the PSB

Appropriately given the mood of the chamber, Major said he hoped that Skinner had not left a lighted match behind fum when he went to inspect the Treasury chest.

THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Are public-gallery protests about arms to indonesia, and subse-quent scuffles, going to be a regular feature of Prime Minister's Questions from now on? They have a one hundred per-cent record for the week, but the protesters again found themselves booted out. THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Sir Rhodes Boyson: "Is my Hon Friend the Prinic Minister aware that there are great rejoicings in this country today on the knowledge that the A-level standards will be retained and strengthed? And would he also agree that this is one of many reforms brough this government for the benefit of British education?"

Compiled by Ben Summer







gh Security Wheel Bar

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Committee split over decision to suspend MP

Westminster Correspondent '

The committee of MPs disparty lines. However Mr Davies cussing the fate of the former is thought to be standing firm, whip David Willetts for alresisting blandishments from selegedly trying to subvert a Comnior Tory members and arguing that the committee has a judinons investigation into the Neil Hamilton affair is deadcial role independent of party locked after three lengthy meetings in private this week. considerations.

The Standards and Privileges Committee which usually meets only once or twice a week is to resume its secret discussions on Monday. The Committee has a Tory majority of one, but Quentin Davies, a Tory backbencher who represents Stamford and Spalding, was particularly hard on Mr Willetts when questioning him dur-

ing the hearings three weeks wider importance of the comago. There is tremendous pres- mittee's work. sure from within the Tory par- The Committee has to decide ty on Mr Davies to vote along whether to punish Mr Willetts,

now the Paymaster General, for trying to influence Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, the chairman of the now defunct Members Interests Committee, in October 1994 when it was discussing whether to take action against There are two schools of Neil Hamilton who was acthought about Mr Davies on the cused of taking cash for asking Tory benches. Tory loyalists ar-

Parliamentary questions.
The options facing the Comgue that he is being spiteful out of his failure to obtain minismittee are to exonerate Mr terial office despite his un-doubted abilities. However, more independently minded Willetts or to punish him with a reprimand or a suspension. Mr Willetts is reported to be certain to resign if he is suspend-Tories and opposition members say Mr Davies is merely beed, while a reprimand is likely to make his position untenable. ing honest and recognises the

Clubs Network presenting

political wishes to Labour

eader Tony Blair and the

Liberal Democrat's Paddy

Ashdown at the House of

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Commons yesterday

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PEOPDES

## Carey and the Pope agree to differ

Religious Affairs Correspondent

Pope John Paul II and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday met for an unscheduled lunch following 30 minutes of talks in which the two men agreed a friendly restatement of their differences over papal authority and women priests.

Dr Carey suggested at a press conference after the meeting that women priests might yet be rejected by the Church of England, but added hastily that he thought this was most unlikely.

The archbishop also listed the functions and authority of the papacy, the role of the Virgin Mary and papal infallibility as areas in which the two churches were still far apart. "In the history of Christianity we have found ways of overcoming very difficult problems. We ... have to trust God for the future," he said.

The Pope, 76, appears to be suffering from Parkinson's disease. When greeting the arch-bishop he shuffled along without ever moving one foot completely in front of another. Once a man of commanding presence, he now seems squashed rather than stooped. His head is held to one side, and he reads with agonising slowness from prepared texts. However, he is still capable of moments of spontaneity in speech, according to members of

the archbishop's party. In a clear reference to the Anglican ordination of women priests, which threw up an unexpected obstacle after serious talks about church unity started thirty years ago, the Pope told Dr Carey that: "These difficulties seem to loom large on caught up with these Protestant the way to the reconciliation discoveries of the Reformation.

which dialogue intended to promote. The path ahead may we are here to recommit ourselves to following it."

Pope John Paul also restated his own interpretation of the importance of his office. Although Anglicans have expressed themselves willing to accept a symbolic papal primacy, he demands that it have real powers: "Our shared desire to respond to the Lord's will cannot fail to lead us to a common understanding of the mind of Christ in every crucial aspect of the constitution of the Church."

Dr Carey was equally uncompromising in restating his own positions. He referred to the rejection by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican's watchdog of orthodoxy, of one of the agree-ments reached by Arcic, the committee which is trying to establish theological agreement between the two churches. This is still a sensitive subject.

Preaching after his meeting with the Pope, at the church from which St Augustine set out in 597 to reconvert the British Isles, Dr Carey even praised the Reformation, when the Church of England split from the Roman Catholic church. "The Reformation was not a tragedy so much as a rediscovery of the Bible and its authority, of the importance of justification by faith. To be sure, all those things were there in the ancient Church, but they needed a rediscovery.

Dr Carey suggested that the Roman Catholic church had, since the reforming Second Vatican Council in the Sixties,



Rusting away: The 1930s steam tug John H Amos on a slipway at the Chatham Historic Dockyard in Kent. Restoration costs could run into six figures

Tide runs out for jewels of maritime history

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

For the John H Amos, a unique piece of Britain's maritime past sitting on a slipway in Chatham, the launch yesterday of a National Register of Historic Ships may have come too late.

All known vessels over 40 feet long and over 40 tons, built in Britain before 1945 and which still lie in UK waters, will be included on the register. There are believed to be more than 3,000 craft in this category of which 900 have so far been identified. The

est warship affoat, and the Discovery at Dundee, the research vessel in which Scott made his voyage to the Antarc-

But others, like the John H Amos, face an uncertain future. Built in Paisley in 1931, it is the last intact steam sidewheel paddle tug in Britain, a fact which for enthusiasts more than justifies its preservation. Martin Stevens, a businessman from Sittingborne, Kent, has been trying

fixture of some is already assured, like the 1817 sailing frigate Trinthe scrappard. He bought the complex in Fiartlepool, the oldvessel for £3,500 from the then

Stevens has sand-blasted the hull and filled in the holes.

As he puts it, he has "wan-Cleveland County Council - the vessel spent her working life on the Tees - and after a civic send-off, complete with brass band, she was towed to Chatham. It became one of two vessels in Mr Stevens's Medway

Maritime Museum. Three years ago the John H Amos sank - or rather the tide came in as she sat on her mooring and she never rose with it. Pumped out, she was bauled up on to the slipway where Mr

As he puts it, he has "wangled" materials, including sand, paint and ropes, and the labour has been his own. "But that's no way to restore a boat. It's just hanging on by one's finger tips waiting for something to turn up. And, frankly, it's got to turn up

a bit quickly."
Mr Stevens is trying to form
a trust to bid for Lottery money. Restoring the boat could cost tens of thousands of pounds. The worst thing that could happen is that I'm turfed off the

mooring," he said. If that happens the hull will quickly deteriorate.

The register is a key companent of a report Timunds a National Policy on Historic Ships which gives guidance on assess-ing a vessel's significance as owners compete for money, purticularly from the Lottery.

It became clear during research by the University of St Andrews, under the direction of Robert Prescott, director of the Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies, that most historic vessels remained in private hands. Getting details proved difficult. Keeping old ships afloat is ex-

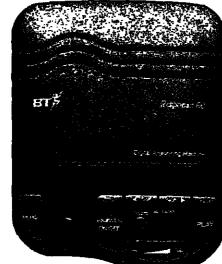
pensive and only a minority will get help from the Lattery. Dr Present said the "attrition rate" was very high. 'A large number of light vessels and paddle steamers have been turned into pleasure craft and then gone to the breaker's yard when they have failed in that capacity."

"Britain, like most countries is much more experienced at looking after old buildings. We have yet to learn the lessons of looking after old ships."



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## Why shouldn't we all be paid like a jockey?

Britain's highly-paid company ex-ecutives have been told to follow the example of the nation's jockeys and make their salaries dependent on performance.

New research carried out at the London School of Economics has shown that jockeys who are paid huge retainers by horse owners suffer a marked fall-off in the number of races that they win.

Researchers at the LSE's Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), analysed the performance of the top 50 flat race jockeys over a 10-year period. Leading jockeys including Willie Carson, Pat Eddery and Steve Cauthen, all slipped down the rankings when owners agreed to pay them hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in retainers to secure their services. By contrast, jockeys Tony Ives

and Ray Cochrane, have consistently been among the highest-performers without being David Metcalf, the CEP's

deputy director, said that the position of jockeys on large retainers was similar to company bosses, who typically receive around two-thirds of their earnings in a base payment which is not related to performance.



Lean and mean: top jockeys like these win more races if they get paid by results. Britain's top earners could benefit from a simi

ally contingent on performance." he said. "Fat cats would do themselves a great service by gent on share price."

cent share of their winnings. The retainer system in British racing has now almost broken down which Professor Metcalf said was evidence that it did not work -Flat jockeys earn £61.50 as the and almost all jockeys are paid

provide a real lesson for hosses about how to define a payment system. The jockeys' system has gradually evolved and it serves racing every well. If bosses did the same it would serve our national economy better," he said. study, Carson averaged 27th in tainer when he slipped to an av-

The LSE research, which was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, uncovered a deterioration in the performance of jockeys on large retainers. According to the except when he was paid a re-

the jockey rankings when paid a retainer compared to 12th when his earnings depended entirely on performance. Steve Cauthen finished 7th on average

16th but carned less prize-money when he was on a fixed pay-

while Walter Swinburn stayed at

The one top jockey who con-

ing a retainer was the phenomenal Frankie Dettori, who climbed from 7th to 4th in the rankings. Dettori is paid a retainer, believed to be around £500,000 a year, by Sheikh Mohammed of Dubai.

Professor Metcalf said that begause of the greater clasticity of their pay, jockeys could improve their earnings by 20 per cent for a 10 per cent increase in performance. By contrast, bosses could only add 3 per cent to their earnings for a similar increase in performance, which offered them little incentive to work hander.

"I have got no problems with fat cats so long as their pay is based on performance but in most cases it clearly is not," he

His co-author. Sue Fernie. said: "The study has shown that paying large sums with insufficient performance incentives built in is inferior to carefully constructed incentive contracts.

"In the spirit of the old song, it ain t what you pay it's the way that you pay it - and that's what erage of 12th, Pat Eddery fell get results' from 13th to 16th on a retainer,

Michael Caulfield, secretary of the Jockeys' Association, said the report made "fascinating reading" and confirmed the view of most jockeys that racing had

## g exodus from the cities

Nicholas Schoon

Inner-city decay is being made worse by a flood of urbandwellers leaving Britain's largest cities for smaller towns and the countryside, new census research has revealed. The outmigration is also exacerbating the loss of green fields and woods to suburban sprawl.

About 90,000 people each year quit the big urban areas of England for pastures new, with London suffering the biggest exodus, according to the research by geography professor Tony Champion of the University of

His conclusions throw cold water on the Government's to 1994, and the 1991 Census. gests the exodus will gather

hopes of a revival in urban living. Its proposed target is for 60 per cent of all new homes to be provided within existing urban areas rather than in the countryside; the current rate is about 50 per cent.

But Professor Champion reports that the outward flow from London and England's next six largest cities has accelerated through the 1990s after a drastic slowdown in 1989 and 1990, when house prices sud-denly began to fall after years of rapid growth. His prime sources are 14 years of the National Health Service's Central Register, based on people registering with their local GP up

He found a universal pattern of urban flight, with people moving from city cores to suburbs, big towns to smaller ones, and from densely populated counties to remoter, thinly inhabited ones. It was, he said, "an extremely deep-

seated process which has been

Social Research Council, sug-

going on for decades". This applies to most sections of the population but is particularly marked among those aged 30 to 44, the self-employed and the retired. The only group to buck the trend are 16- to 29-yearolds, among whom there has been a net move into the cities. Professor Champion's survey, funded by the Economic and

recovering property market.

Out-migration from the seven biggest metropolitan areas -London, Birmingham, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Liverpool, Manchester and Tyneside peaked at 125,000 in 1987, the beight of the last boom. Between 1981 and 1994 more than 1.28 million people left. The new research suggests

that the Government will have to come up with more radical, expensive and controversial policies than it has been willing to contemplate if it wishes to protect the inner cities from desertion and the countryside

pace as the number of homes Hundreds of children are being bought and sold rises in a swiftly permanently excluded from primary schools as head teachers try to hit performance tar-

gets, writes Ian Burrell. Researchers at the University of Portsmouth found that permanent exclusions from primary schools more than trebled to 1,215 in a year, while up to 10,000 other children were temporarily excluded.

Most of the children, (54 per cent) were excluded for violent behaviour, while 17 per cent were ordered out for verbal abuse and 16 per cent for dis-

obedience. Others were shown the door for being disruptive to other children or simply being "un-

controllable" within the school. Nine out of ten of those ex-

cluded were boys.

The research team found that in 1992-93, 1,215 primary schoolchildren were permanently excluded from school. compared to 378 the year be-

A detailed analysis of three local authorities - two London boroughs and a county council - found that temporary exclusions, which schools are not legally obliged to report, were occurring at eight times the rate

of permanent exclusions. If the pattern was repeated across the country, 10,000 primary schoolchildren could be

Dr Carol Havden, who headed what is the biggest-ever study of primary school exclusions, said that head teachers were very aware of the economic consequences of keeping

disruptive pupils in school. She said: "If schools keep disruptive pupils, other parents can become disgruntled and take their children and the funds that go with them to other schools

"Difficult children can also make it harder for other students to learn, deterring more parents from sending their children to the school. The planned introduction of league tables for primary schools will exacerbate this problem."

The researchers, who were funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, found that 80 per cent of the excluded children were on the casebooks of specialist agencies,

mostly social services. A quarter of the children had been "statemented" by education psychologists for having emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Further examination of the family backgrounds of a sample of 38 excluded children found that 90 per cent came from families where the parents had divorced or separated, and 60 per cent from families where there was evidence of neglect. violence or abuse.

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## procedure failed in earlier fire

Fires on the railways last year soared by nearly 40 per cent, and many were started deliberately, it emerged vesterday...

Inadequate removal of litter and rubbish was the main cause of serious track and lineside fires, said a Health and Safety Executive report on railway safety for 1995-96. However, arson or vandalism was responsible for 121 of the 256 fires on trains during the period.

For the first time since 1978 a train fire resulted in a death, when a passenger jumped from a blazing train at Maidenhead, Berkshire, in September 1995, and was struck by a train on an adjacent track

The total number of railway The number of train fires was only one less than the highest recorded in the previous five years. The report said acts of arson or vandalism, although in- been suspended during the increasing, were generally dealt cident, which involved a diesel-

with by train crews, ensuring "that most fires of this type were extinguished at an early stage". A major cable fire at Birm-

ingham New Street station was attributed to the ignition of litter "which should not have been allowed to accumulate". The report added: "Those responsible for the removal of litter should be aware of the potentially serious consequences of cost-cutting in this

essential activity. Most acts of arson or vandalism occurred in the London suburbs and the Home Counties. Few culprits were caught, the report said.

Eurotunnel had no set procedures to deal with "dense exfires in 1995-96 was 425, a 39 per cent increase on 1994-95 total. miles of the Channel Tunnel's service tunnel in an incident in September last year, the executive also dislosed vesterday.

All train services should have

which runs on wheels. The service tunnel is the "safe haven" into which passengers can be evacuated if there is an incident. The report went on: "While the should have been suspended be-cause of the loss of the safe haven. Since their rules did not cover this eventuality, Eurotunnel continued to operate a normal night service. Euro-tunnel had since carried out a review and had amended emer-

gency procedures.
Vic Coleman, deputy Chief
Inspecting Officer of Railways and a member of the Channel Tunnel safety authority, said that with regard to last month's tunnel fire, the safety authority would study further proposals from Eurotunnel before being able to approve a re-start of freight shuttle services.

Yesterday Eurostar trains began running Car shuttle services will re-start next Tuesday.

Channel tunnel Spy who sold country for lust and greed



life: John Vassall, blackmailed by the Kremlin over his homosexuality, was jailed in 1962 for passing Admiralty documents to the Russians

John Vassall, one of the KGB's most notorious British spies, has died, aged 71. He suffered a heart attack outside a London Tube station and was buried this week, in a private service at odds with the scandal which sur-

rounded him in the 1960s. He served 10 years in prison when his role as a Soviet spy was exposed. He had spent eight

years passing secrets to the Russians after one of the most bizarre treachery scandals of the century shook British counterwas enticed by Russian Secret Service agents to a party where intelligence to its foundations. Vassall, who took the name John Phillips when he was re-

leased from prison, was a weakwilled gullible homosexual sent to Moscow at the height of the Cold War as a junior Naval attaché at the British Embassy. It was a decision which later

continued as a spy when he re-

turned to London in 1956 to baffled government, because work in Naval Intelligence. While the British failed for he became an easy victim of classic Kremlin blackmail. He

guests stripping and being photographed in lewd poses. Risking exposure as a promiscuous homosexual if he failed to cooperate. Vassall began passing secrets in 1954 and

some time to isolate Vassall as the traitor in their midst, they

eventually realised that this heavy drinking led to male humble assistant private secretary on a salary of £15 a week was keeping an expensive flat in Westminster and holidaying in New York, Capri and Rome.

At his trial, he was accused of \*selling his country for lust

and greed" and the subsequent inquiry showed up British capture

in turn

cisint

He was jailed for 18 years in 1962 after admitting four offences under the Official Secrets Act. He was released in 1972 and attempted to rebuild his life working for the British Records Association, an archivists near his home in St John's Wood morth-west London.

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DAILY POEM

**Episode** 

By Zsuzsa Rakovszky

It's hardly worthwhile noting down which door leads where – in any case I won't be tapping my way round the angles of this dark corridor again, seeking a doorknob, wary of waking who knows who with a creaky floorboard. Why take especial notice of a stranger's that anyway."

In the dim glow of the bathroom mirror I make out cans of sprays, a double row of toothmugs, and as in the flash of a camera, myself in agitated outline. Despite this show of belonging. I'm out of my element. o foreign body lodged in un alien event.

no more. But even if the postulated soul is missing, every gesture of the mock sacrament enacted on that preliminary roll of tartan - variations on a common stock of ideas, but so many and so individual – in other words the whole neckbreaking ritual

works with such a fluent passion that the cursed heroine can remain in perpetual mute arrest even if it's the hundredth time and not the first when, between deep blue sea and prompter's bex. she shakes her terrified incredulous locks to stare fixedly at the hand across her breast.

Hungarians treasure their poetry which, due to the isolation and is less known in the English-speaking world than it deserves writes George Gömöri. Zsuzsa Rakovszky is Hungary's kradng woman poet, and is one of 35 poets in a new anthology of Hungarian poetry. The Colonnade of Teeth, published by Blondaxe. Oxford published her collection Another Life last year, translated by George Szirtes.

George Gömöri is Senior Lecturer in Slavonic Studies, Cambridge University. He edited The Colonnade of Teeth with George Stirtes.

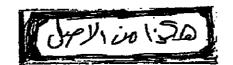
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news

## NHS opens hospital doors to insurance firms

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

Labour last night warned that a meeting of NHS trust leaders today to select an insurance company for health service pay beds will pave the way for turning the health service into a "safety net" for those too poor to pay

Four insurance companies will make bids for the nationwide contract to offer insurance

pital trusts at the offices of the Federation of NHS Trusts in the

tipped to replace Bupa, the private health insurance specialist, which pulled out of providing care for NHS pay beds to con-centrate on Bupa-backed private

Tessa Jowell, Labour's health with The Independent a plan by spokesperson, said it was part of an adviser, Dr Michael Gold-Tessa Jowell, Labour's health

leaving the rest to the NHS.

That charge is strongly denied by ministers and the trusts hospitals. Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, secured an extra £1.6bn for the NHS next year, with a pledge to increase spending in real terms every year. He rejected in an interview

Institute, for the NHS to adopt a "core curriculum" and "top up" insurance schemes to supple-

ation said that Bupa were going to "push their customers into their own hospitals - clearly that is a situation that the trusts who are losing that income could not ignore".

ternative providers of insurtreated in private hospitals and wanted the full back up of NHS

which goes to the benefit of the overwhelming majority of NHS

patients. We want that income to go back into the NHS."

Labour has dropped its threats to abolish pay beds, but Ms Jowell said the meeting would secure a contract for an insurance company in NHS hospitals. She said patients would be offered a choice between treatment in private wards under the hospital's pri-

NHS wards. Ms Jowell said it was differ-

they will not be promoting one company's private insurance schemes, but she has written to Mr Dorrell, protesting at the scheme. "The Government are fond of protesting their support

"We see this as the Government's hidden agenda for the NHS. They want it to switch into an insurance-based system particularly for elective surgery."

for the NHS but are turning a blind eye to this deal. "This is because it fits perfeetly with their plans to make the NHS an insurance-based privatised service with a safety net for those who cannot afford

## Swallows' captured in tunnel vision

across Europe and into North

Every now and then, the birds would stop, along with the BBC Natural History Unit film crew accompanying them. Then they would fly from one end of a 20-foot clear glass tunnel to the other many times, with a camerman running along beside them.

It is extremely difficult to film a swallow in flight because of its

So they plumped for the pur-

**Environment Correspondent** It was a most unusual migration. A family of young swallows travelled south from Britain,

It was the best way the BBC could find to film the small birds flying past the scenery they would naturally have encountered during their 6,000-mile flight from northern Europe to southern Africa.

high speed and tiny size. "We didn't want to use special-effects techniques and make it look like Superman flying," said Nigel Marvin, producer of a forthcoming BBC1 series on animal

pose-built tunnel with curved

Strand in central London. The Norwich Union is being

for private pay beds in NHS hos-pitals to the leaders of 73 hos-ernment to switch most patients wing think-tank, the Adam Smith into private health schemes,

ment funding by the taxpayer. A spokesman for the feder-

The federation looked at al-

ance "to encourage a continuing income stream", said the spokesman. "When Bupa announced they were going to Dull Out. We were inundated with people who said they had been

"Pay beds contribute a sig-nificant amount to the NHS

vate insurance scheme, or in

which Bupa was one of several companies offering private insurance for patients using NHS pay beds. By linking themselves to a dedicated insurer, she fears that the hospitals will promote their insurance schemes.

The trusts have assured her to opt into the private scheme."

Nicholas Schoon

intern mentephilis in the technique internal

LY POEM

Africa, by van and by ferry.

Flight of its life: A BBC cameraman filming a swallow flying through a glass tunnel against an artificial wind in a simulation of the bird's 6,000-mile migration to South Africa. The film, A Swallow's Odyssey, will be broadcast in January Photographs: BBC

transparent plastic. The swal-lows were trained to fly along in France, Spain, Gibraltar and North Africa took several it into a headwind created by a fan, making for some food at the far end.

"Even so, it was very difficult sales. to follow them down the tunnel," said Mr Marvin. "For every 200 minutes filmed we could only use one, which we think is a record."

The filming of the swallows

would not be reflected in the against various landscapes weeks and cost several hundred thousand pounds, but the BBC will recoup the money in foreign

> The baby birds became available when they were orphaned. At the end of the filming they were released in Morocco to continue their journey south un-

It takes a swallow three to four months to fly from Britain to sub-Saharan Africa. They usually fly about 100 miles a day when it is light, always roost at night, and sometimes stop for a few days en route.

The average lifespan is three years, with very high mortality among the young birds making their first journey south and back north again for the





YOUR MUM CARE POSSI FTER ALL,

Victims of Abuse: The Independent Christmas appeal looks at the NSPCC team that roots out the wrongdoers

## Paedophiles are not men in dirty raincoats. They are clever people who naive children trust

Glenda Cooper

Running a bookstall on a local market, Ian Pastel came into contact with a lot of people. He was seen as being always willing to help someone out of fi-nancial difficulty or to visit anyone in trouble.

But the people he befriended always had children. They, seeing him as a family friend, would visit his stall after school.

Then in December 1994 the spell broke. Alice, 13, told the police that when she had stayed at Pastel's flat one night after running away from bome he offered her alcohol, masturbated himself and indecently assaulted her. Pastel denied the accusation and no charge was brought.

Six months later social services heard that Pastel had been taking pictures of children who had visited the stall. The council called in the London Investigation Team run by the National Society for the Protection of Children to co-ordinate and conduct an inquiry for them.

The team was set up two and half years ago to help protect children from organised sexual abuse. In the last year they have seen 104 children and conducted eight investigations, of which three ended in prosecutions and convictions; one man has fled abroad and has yet to be brought to trial, in another there was not enough evidence to charge and

three are continuing.

The team comprises a manager, four social workers and administration staff. "Child protection agencies were mainly focusing on abuse in families," Maureen Carson, the team manager, said. "We were set up to dosomething different. We were concerned that people were not recognising the organised abuse of large numbers of children."

Each case involves careful

planning, in conjunction with so-cial workers and the police. All relevant information is gathered, a strategy mapped out and interviews conducted with the children and their parents. The team also ensures that help and support is available to the families and sets up independent witness support for children re-

quired to give evidence in court. The image of a paedophile as a man in a grubby raincoat is, one of the team says, simply not true. "They tend to be ex-tremely well resourced," Ms Carson agreed. "They can identify vulnerable members of the community. They can be incredibly articulate, well re-spected, educated and leading a busy professional life. They work out what activities children are interested in and use them to engage their attention. They have used things like the Internet, video games, camping trips - anything children enjoy."

Children told the team how

THE INDEPENDENT/NSPCC

Victims of Abuse Appeal

they trusted Pastel when he took pictures of them because he was a "friend" of the family. He asked several children to take part in making videos, telling one girl he would pay her £150 if she did. The investigation team has

uncovered cases where paedophiles have worked by themselves and where they have worked together. They have traced contacts abroad and networks in London. In Pastel's case children revealed that he was working with another man at the market, Jeremy Smith. At Smith's house the police found child pomography and evidence linking him to another man, Ralph Tall, who lived in Gibraltar. His home was also searched and more child pornography was found, some provided by Smith.

Even when children have indicated that they are being abused, getting them to talk can be a long and painful process.

workers encourage them to speak about their experiences using fuzzy felt, small dolls and a jigsaw "body puzzle", and they provide them with therapy and counselling afterwards.

Social workers have to listen

to tales where children have been encouraged to "recruit" friends or led on to abuse other children. "It is something that we all - and we are all social workers - find distressing, say when you hear about serious forms of abuse that you have not heard oft before," Ms Carson said.

'Sometimes we meet voung children who have been abused for a year or more. Then when they tell you their story, you find out that two or three more children are involved. What must it feel like for the parents to have to hear this? What if it is someone they've allowed to be alone with their child?"

She believes that the London Investigation Team's work is necessary to stop the repeated abuse of children. It is calculated that on average an abuser will have attempted or committed 238 offences before he is caught. "Our aim is to protect children and for that we need to get convictions. We need to stop paedophiles abusing other children. We need to stop

children suffering," she said. Even a successful investigation can leave the team feeling frustrated. Ian Pastel was eventually brought to trial after 30 children had been identified from photographs and interviewed. Last March he was sentenced to just 12 months in jail for an act of gross indecency. ■All names and some details of cases have been changed

Anyone concerned about a child's welfare can contact the NSPCC child protection helpline anytime free on 0800 800 500.



'Family friends' can betray trust. The picture was posed by a model Photograph: NSPCC I to a halt within days.

#### Union at Ford in row on racism

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

The row over recruitment proreached a new intensity yester-

reached a new intensity yester-day as a union was accused of "compromising with racism". In his most outspoken re-marks yet, Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, alleged that a rival TUC-affiliate was "more compliant" on issues of racial discrimination.

Mr Morris will urge in TUCsponsored talks that the United Road Transport Union (Urtu) should withdraw its offer of membership to the T&G drivers who are trying to preserve a se-lection system which allegady discriminates against black people.

A spokesman for Urtu said vesterday: "Everything the T&G says about the issue is a pack of unsubstantiated lies. He said there was no evidence. to support the assertions of the transport workers' union. Urtu had a long record of opposing discrimination.

At the beliest of the T&G leader, the TUC general secretary, John Monks, is holding meetings with representatives from both unions in an attempt to resolve the dispute. Mr Morris will also meet Ford managers to try to persuade the compa-

ny to change the procedures. The 300 drivers, based in Dagenham, Essex, have sought to leave the T&G tollowing as fight to change the recruitment system. The transport workers' union is backing seven black members at industrial tribunals in January. The seven allege that the selection procedures are inherently racist. While between 40 and 45 per cent of production workers at Dagenham are of ethnic minority origin, only 2 per

cent of the drivers are black. Truck fleet supervisors test the aptitude of applicants for the much-sought after £30,000a-year jobs with minimal input from senior management. It is alleged that the jobs are often

passed down from father to son. The lorry drivers deliver parts throughout western Europe and because stocks are kept low a strike by truck flect personnel would bring most Ford factories

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# stirs fear in HK

Stephen Vines Hong Kong

The British passport scheme, which was designed to provide reassurance to Hong Kong's key people, is turning into a nightmare of uncertainty following conflicting statements from the Foreign Office.

lowing conflicting statements from the Foreign Office.

The brewing crisis of confidence led the Governor, Chris Patten, to convene a special session of the legislature yesterday to try and calm fears. sion of the legislature yesterday to try and calm fears.

Furiously backpedalling to re-inject confidence in the scheme, Mr Patten told legislators that "the British government takes seriously its responsibility to all British nationals in Hong Kong, irrespective of how their British nationality was obtained and of whether they hold British

holders in the colony by offer-ing them the right to British citizenship as a sort of insurance policy if things became intolernationality".

On Tuesday, Francis Cornish, the senior British diplomat in the colony, suggested that as the Chinese government re-garded holders of British passports, granted under the scheme, as Chinese nationals, Britain would not be able to furnish consular protection.

The immediate furore generated by his remarks led the Hong Kong government to seek prompt action by the Foreign Office to give a public assurance that all holders of British passports would be given equal

Mr Patten went further yesterday, claiming that "Britain will not sit idly by if British Nationals are in trouble". He reiterated Leung, the head of the Immithe Foreign Office assurance that it was "for the British government, and the British government alone, to determine whether or not an individual holds British nationality".

While he was speaking in Hong Kong, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman in Peking was insisting that China did not

scheme and that, as far as

Peking was concerned, those holding passports gained through the scheme would be treated as Chinese nationals.

This pointed statement made

Mr Patten's task more difficult and he received a sceptical

hostile, with most newspapers

regarding Britain's response to uncertainty over the status of its

passports as another indica-tion of British duplicity.

ection Scheme, devised in the af-

termath of the 1989 Tiananmen

Square massacre, was supposed to be a way of anchoring key job-

able after the Chinese takeover. The scheme was devised for

50,000 heads of household and

their families. As a result, some

135,000 people have become el

igible for British passports Their names are supposed to be a closely guarded secret, so

that such passport holders will not face reprisals by China.

While the row over consular protection is under way, legis-lators are investigating the cir-

gration Department. There

have been suggestions that this is linked to leaks of information

The passport scheme, Hong Kong people were led to believe, would in the last resort allow

them to escape the clutches of

a repressive Chinese regime.

That understanding is now very

However, there are fears that serious leaks have occurred.

The British Nationality Sel-

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Three ages of China: Qing Chenq Yanqui (above), a famous performer at the Chinese opera during the 1920s and 1930s. The opera remained popular after the revolution, which erupted in 1911 and swept away the extreme poverty peasants endured in cities like Shanghai, (right). By the 1950s, after civil war and partition, China had embraced Commuism under Mao Zedong and projected youth as the nation's driving force (top right) Photographs: Auguste Francois/The Chinese Century' (Endeavour Group UK)





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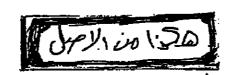
The Costume Institute Ball (right) is the social highlight of the US fashion year. It's also focus of some ferocious social rivalries. Lies Schillinger reports

Plus: Blake Morrison on RS Thomas, Ken Loach's Liverpool, Michael Bateman's Christmas secrets, and Helen Fielding's tackiest night out

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## Britain gets tough on Bosnian war crimes... and sends one detective

Christopher Bellamy Defence Correspondent Steve Crawshaw

Its leaders had boasted that they would take tough action to crack down on the war criminals in former Yugoslavia. And yesterday the West showed what it meant by getting serious.

In Britain's case, one one extra detective will be sent to join the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. That was the deal agreed at the international conference on Bosnia which ended in London vesterday.

Britain will also send up to 30 police officers to join the International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Bosnia itself, but their role is only to investigate war crimes and other abuses committed by local police.

The Foreign Secretary, Malcohn Rifkind, described the two-day conference as "successful", stressing that in the year since the last London conference, no one in Bosnia had been killed as a direct result of hostilities. But even he admitted there were still areas where there had been "a depressing lack of progress".

In past years, British official assessments have been notable for their casual optimism: at the time of a dead-end London conference on Yugoslavia in 1992, British officials proclaimed a "diplomatic tribecause, allegedly, Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian

found themselves under such international pressure. In reality, the Bosnian war was only beginning.

Speaking beside Carl Bildt, the

High Representative responsible for the helping to rebuild the Bosnian economy and putting a Westernstyle democracy in place, Mr Rifkind stressed practical mea-sures to "kick start" the transformation of Bosnia. To ensure they happen, the 41-page document is-sued yesterday afternoon is re-plete with "conditionality" denying aid to what are now known as the "authorities" in Bosnia, rather than the "former warring fac-tions" - unless they fulfil the un-

dertakings they have made.

This represented a significant

ternational community would provide support and funds to rebuild Bosnia after three-and-a-half years of being torn apart. Baroness Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, said \$1.9bn (£1.2bn) had been pledged, of which \$350m had been spent, but further funds will be conditional on increased local co-operation. She insisted, however, that "conditionality is not blackmail".

The events in neighbouring Ser-bia were not on the conference agenda but both Mr Rifkind and Mr Bildt said they were very concerned and had let it be known to the For-

president and two wanted men

change from the position over the last year when it was almost automatically assumed that the inrepression of opposition parties and the media. Mr Milutinovic had told Mr Bildt that the independent radio station B92, recently closed down, would soon be back on the air. "That is good but we need to see it, or should I say hear it before we believe it," Mr Bildt said.

The conference agreed to increase pressure on the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other neighbouring states to co-operate fully with the war crimes tribunal in the Hague and to provide "additional resources to enhance information sharing and increase information gathering".

The final report continued: "The provision of economic reconstruc-tion assistance is closely linked to co-operation in this area. The authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina are reminded that their obligations under international law take precedence over any provisions in their local or national legislation." Mr Rifkind said he would be very dissatisfied" if Ratko Mladic

and Radovan Karadzic were not brought to justice in the next year. Until now, Western governments have shown little inclination to lay hands on the war criminals, despite the best efforts of the war crimes tribunal in the Hague. But Mr Bildt insisted that the peace implementation force, I-For, which becomes the stabilising force S-For on 20 December, could ar-

rest indicted war criminals in future. Senior Nato officers said yesterday that if the tribunal or the local authorities let them know what they wanted in detail, they would help. However, as one officer said, "sol-

diers are not good policemen".

All parties agreed to re-establish an integrated telephone system. It is currently impossible to call Pale in the Scrib half of Bosnia from Sarajevo in the Muslim-Croat area. They also agreed a single system of car number plates. At present all three former warring factions have distinctive plates, which identifies a vehicle's origin and inhibits freedom of movement. There is to be integrated air space and a Bosniawide system of buses and railways.



Meit down: A Bosnian government soldier destroying an 82mm mortae gun outside Sarajevo in the arms reduction the Dayton peace accerd nanded of all armies in the former Yugoslavia

## Rogues' gallery: Slobodan Milosevic, Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic. Malcolm Rifkind said he would be dissatisfied if the latter two were not brought to justice in the next year Serbs roar for velvet revolution

Tony Barber Belgrade

Roars of "Vuk, vuk, vuk" boomed around central Belgrade as Vuk Draskovic, his long black hair and beard flecked with snow, moved forward to address the 60,000 demonstrators. "Can we do it like the Czechs?" he asked, referring to the peaceful overthrow of Communism in Prague in 1989. "Yes!" they cried. "Shall we?" he demanded. "We shall!" came back the thunderous response.

Denouncing President Slobodan Milosevic as "lopoglavnik" (the chief robber), he burst into a passage of passionate, flowing oratory. "That master of judicial terrorism, that head of thievery of electoral will of the people, is for us no longer president, he is the chief robber, the master of thieves."

Mr Draskovic's Messiah-like features make him easily the most identifiable of the three intellectuals who have orchestrated 18 days of protests in Belgrade, the biggest challenge to Mr Milosevic in his nine years of nationalist, neo-communist rule. The authorities yesterday made some minor concessions, promising extra cash for students, payment of delayed pen-

sions and cheaper electricity. Mr Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, was once a staunch Serbian nationalist, advocating the unity of all Serbs in former Yugoslavia with a fierce conviction which paralleled that of Mr Milosevic. A lawyer and novelist, he swears now that he would adhere to European standards of democracy and, if in power, would robber".

support the Dayton peace set-tlement for Bosnia - a vital issue for Western governments.

Mr Draskovic was a central figure in the protests in 1991 which Mr Milosevic crushed with tanks. He has suffered imprisonment. Yet he insists that the campaign must remain peaceful: "We want to defeat his lies with truth, his hatred with love and his bombs with eggs."

The second opposition leader is Zoran Djindjic, head of the Democratic Party, who shares a Serbian nationalist but otherwise could not be more different with his short, grey hair and plain suits. A philosopher by training, his speeches lack the lashing, crowd-stirring rhetoric of Mr Draskovic. He has tried to organise trade union protests in support of the opposition.

The third leader, Vesna Pes who is chairman of the Civic Alliance of Serbia, is a sociologist and describes herself as "a necessary intermediary between the two men who surround me". She was the most explicit of the trio in opposing the 1991-95 wars in former Yugoslavia, which she says enabled Mr Milosevic to deflect demands for democracy by creat-

ing "national confusion". All three leaders are members of the Serbian parliament, but their coalition movement, Zajedno (Together), would al-most certainly fall apart if they ousted Mr Milosevic, However, the more immediate question is whether the opposition has the strength and acumen to bring down the still powerful "chief

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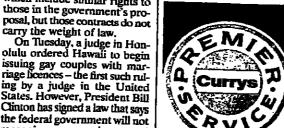


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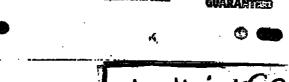


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## Gay marriages set to go Dutch

ing gay marriages, the Dutch government plans to give samesex couples almost identical rights to married people, a spokeswoman said yesterday.

A proposed new law will allow homosexual couples to register their relationship with their local municipality in a legally binding process, the justice ministry said. The only major difference is that the registered same-sex couples will not be allowed to adopt children, as the arrangement is still being referred to as a "registration and not a marriage.

A justice spokesman insisted that "there is not very much difference" between the proposed system and a traditional marriage, and said the government is looking into recognition of same-sex marriages. The proposal has broad

backing in parliament and is expected to become law in January 1998. But a prominent gay organisation says it will not

The Hague (AP) — In a significant step towards recognisation step towards recognisation and the right to adoption.

"So what you should do if you want to adopt a child is lie about your relationship. It is ridiculous." Sjoerd Beumer, of the Dutch Federation for the Integration of Homosexuality, said. Registration will, however,

give the couple the same pension, social security and inheritance rights as a married couple and it will enforce alimony payments if a couple splits. Many gay couples already sign "partnership contracts" which include similar rights to

posal, but those contracts do not carry the weight of law. On Tuesday, a judge in Hon-olulu ordered Hawaii to begin issuing gay couples with mar-riage licences - the first such ruling by a judge in the United States. However, President Bill Clinton has signed a law that says the federal government will not recognise gay marriages, and which allows states to refuse to

recognise such unions.



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## Cutting throats to create a Muslim state A smartly dressed man discusses a secret war Algiers — He was young, well

dressed, an expensive leather jacket over his shoulders. I had already received a telephone call from the Algerian opposition in Europe but never expected a representative of Algeria's "Islamist" guerrilla force to turn up in my hotel with its heavy security guard, its armed cops in the front hall, its militiamen at the gates.
You can call me Abu Mo-

hamed," the young man said as we sat on the terrace of the old Al-Djezair, the palm trees dipping in the wind behind us. And so it was that for more than two hours, he opened the door of Algeria's secret war - to the splits in the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), the new unity of the guerrilla armies, the killing of journalists, the throat-cutting of government informers, even the betrayal of a government

security agent by his own wife.

Openly acknowledging his membership of the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) whose certain victory at the 1992 was annulled by the military-backed Algerian regime - the sequence of events that set off a war which has cost at least 60,000 lives - "Abu Mohamed" stated categorically that the two militant Muslim groups in Algeria, the GIA and however, that the GIA, blamed and a key chain with "Khaled"

INSIDE ALGERIA Robert Fisk

his own Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), had united after months of internecine war. "The two met first in June, then in July and both sides argued about using their own titles," he said. "1 was the mediator at the third meeting at Chief at the begin-

'If a journalist can't tell the truth he must stop work. If he doesn't stop he must die'

ning of October. Two of our leaders, Sheikh Ahmed Be-naicha, the AIS leader in the west, and Madani Mirag, our leader in eastern Algeria, were there. They decided at this last meeting that they must strike

Abu Mohamed claimed,

the war, had been deeply infiltrated by the Algerian military intelligence service. He alleged that the worst atrocities of the war, including the massacre of women and children in mountain villages, were carried out at the instigation of government agents. There was no doubting the ruthlessness of his words.

When I asked him why the Muslim groups cut the throats of their enemies, he replied: "It's the best way to become closer to God, the best way to kill a taghout [enemy of God]. If you have someone who is capable of killing five-year-old children, what do you do with him? Kill him with bullets? Bullets are precious to us - they are very expensive. Take a 9mm Kalash[nikov] bullet - it's as if you are throwing it away. Anyone who tried to destroy Islam, to destroy the Good Lord, who takes the Lord's name in vain, is a devil. You can do anything .to wipe out a devil."

At one point, Abu Mohamed handed me an Islamic tract



lims are everywhere, but all their

written on the handle. Khaled, he added, was the name of his local military leader or "emir". need to "exterminate with God's help" the Algerian government in order to set up an Islamic state, justifying his remarks by quotating the Koran whom have been assassinated: sion on this."

in a state of near ecstasy. It was the authentic voice of the Algerian regime's "Islamist" en-He repeatedly referred to the emy and his statements left every reason to believe that the Algerian war is going to grow yet more deadly.

"There was a GIA communiqué saying that if a journalist can't tell the truth, he must stop work - and that if he doesn't stop, he must die. They have been warned. The AIS has not executed (sic) a single journal-On Algerian journalists, 69 of ist. They haven't taken a deci-

consistent reports, gathered friends, but it doesn't matter beby The Independent as well as cause I know that one day we'll human rights groups, of the see each other again. For the rape of women prisoners in 200 who were killed, another Algeria. 600 or 700 have become mud-On other Arab states: "Mus-

iahedin." He described how he

information until you dic."

husband and said he worked

for military security. We had to

follow it up to find the proof. The GIA killed him, the real

GIA which is not infiltrated.

The military security have cap-

tured women and tortured

and raped them and thrown

had been arrested in January presidents are devils. All Muslast year and tortured by seculims are at war with the state rity men with electricity. "I in Egypt, in Tunisia, in Libya. thank God I gave no informa-tion," he added. "The moment They say Sudan is a Muslim country but there are mistakes you give one piece of informathere. Iran is Shiite - they're not tion, you are finished because really Muslim," Abu Mohamed they will torture you for more did not know about the bomb on the Paris metro until I told On women: "There have him. But his response was imbeen many women who have mediate: "It's legitimate. France secretly worked for the Isis the cause of everything that's going on in Algeria. It helps the Algerian state. Muslims are lamists...Sometimes they contact the mudjahidin and tell them that their husbands work everywhere in the world. So why for the state. This happened to do you think they specifically choose France? You have to ask me, a woman came to me a year ago and denounced her

yourself that question." "Martyrdom" was much on Abu Mohamed's mind. "The Koran promises us victory or martydom. It says real martyrs don't bleed very much. When they die, they smell of musk perfume. This is true. The security forces have noticed that them in prison. Do you know sometimes our dead smell of what they are asking us? musk. When a martyr dies, he They're asking us to put a is met in paradise by 72 beau-

bomb in their prisons. Do you tiful women. Sometimes, it seemed as know why? Because they have suffered too much. They are though Abu Mohamed's war living a nightmare. They are all would be forever beyond our pregnant." There have been comprehension.

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## significant shorts

#### Sweden ends refugees' nightmare

More than 100 would-be refugees from the Middle East and Asia have been granted asylum in Sweden and neighbouring Nordic states after a nightmare journey to the West.

The refugees, most of whom are Iraqi Kurds claiming political persecution, wear the burga and veil and set out almost two years ago, travelling to the Baltics via Moscow, having paid thousands of US dollars to smuggling gangs. They were captured in Latvia last year and spent more than two weeks being shunted back and forth by train to Russia and Lithuania. None of the three countries wanted to

accept them.

After protests from the
UN High Commissioner for Refugees, they were moved to a Latvian prison. Sweden has agreed to take 52 of the 108 refugees, with Denmark, Finland and Norway accepting 25, 20 and 11 apiece. Adrian Bridge

#### SS massacre trial delayed The trial of Erich Prienke,

the former SS captain involved in the wartime massacre of 335 Italian setback yesterday as the military court due to rehear his case later this month declared itself incompetent and referred the case back to civilian authorities.

The military argues that Priebke, 84, should be treated as a civilian since the SS was an offshoot of the Nazi party, and not strictly a military outfit, while the criminal courts believe the case should be treated as a sequel to the 1948 military tribunal which prosecuted Nazis involved in the massacre at the Ardeatine Caves outside Rome. Andrew Gumbel - Rome

#### Taliban punish women who violate the veil

Afghanistan's radical Islamic Taliban militia said it had meted out punishment to 225 women yesterday for violating its rules on clothing. Announcing the punishment, the Talibun-controlled Sharia Radio said: "We [said] once again that all women should respect sharia [law] or face punishment." It added that young men who had failed to grow beards had also been

#### Havel develops pneumonia

punished. Reuters - Islamabad

A Czech surgeon said President Vaclav Havel had developed pneumonia following surgery to remove a cancerous lung turnour earlier this week. But Dr Pavel Pavko said tests showed there appeared to be no spreading of the cancer after the radical surgery which removed a small malignant tumour along with half of Mr Havel's right lung. Reuters - Prague

#### Au revoir to Bardot curves

civilians, suffered yet another. The city council of Marly-le-Roi, a suburb west of Paris, voted unanimously to remove a bust of Marianne symbol of the French republic - because it was modelled after the former actress Brigitte Bardot.

In a her memoirs, published this autumn, Bardot referred to the extreme right-wing National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen as a "very fine man".

"Brigitte Bardot was chosen as the model because she had generous curves," Marly Mayor Francois-Henri de Virieu said. "Today, she has ideas that we don't find generous." AP - Marly-le-Roi











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## Clinton breaks the mould with radical Cabinet line-up

Rupert Cornwell Washington

In two ground-breaking choices, President Bill Clinton has chosen Madeleine Albright, currently US Ambassador to the United Nations, to be Secretary of State and the outgoing Re-publican Senator William Cohen as Secretary of Defense. The two appointees form the backbone of a new national se-

curity team for his second term. Assuming she is confirmed by the Senate, Ms Albright, the daughter of a Czech immigrant who fled the Communist takeover in 1948, would become the first woman in American history to hold the most prestigious Cabinet job, which is also the fifth-ranking post under the

nounced by Mr Clinton yester- 59-year-old Ms Albright, a from a Republican-controlled

It is not - as the rasping Ten-

stick, the show will be worth

Love her or hate her, on one

Rupert Cornwell

day afternoon, Anthony Lake, currently Mr Clinton's national security adviser, will take over from John Deutch as director of the troubled CIA, while Mr Lake will be replaced by his present deputy, Sandy Berger. Mr Deutch could move to the Energy Department, in place of Hazel O'Leary.

Originally, the White House

had signalled that Mr Clinton would move to make good the massive post-election exodus from his Cabinet within days of his victory on 5 November, But as with the selection of his first cabinet four years ago, the process has become far more protracted than intended - further complicated in the last few days by the virtual loss of the presidential voice due to overstrained vocal chords.

But in the last few days, the

'Queen of Mean' Albright

shatters the glass ceiling

tion in Bosnia, the expansion of Nato and spearhead of Washington's effort to oust Boutros Boutros-Ghali as UN Secretary General, had clearly emerged as favourite, as the star of former front-runner, the ex-Senate Majority Leader and Ulster peace talks chairman George

Seen primarily as a loyal executor of policy rather than a grand strategist of international affairs, she is unlikely to usher in any great changes in US foreign policy, at least initially. But she is likely to be a far more assertive promoter of policy than her predecessor, the reserved and cautious Warren Christopher - no mean attribute when the State Department budget and foreign aid are under unprecedented pressure

bard work and a steely determi-

Dayton peace accords for Bosnia. Mr Holbrooke could succeed Ms Albright at the UN in New York, where he now For his part Mr Cohen, a moderate three-term senator from Maine deeply versed in defence policy, was always a prime candidate to succeed William Perry at the Pentagon, once Mr Clinton had signalled his wish for accommodation with Capitol Hill by appointing at last one prominent Republican to a top

administration post. Even so,

the appointment has its own

smack of history: not since

of all things foreign.

doubtable and arch-conserva-

doubt, thanks to her staunchly

member served under a President of a different party.

Like Ms Albright, the 56year-old Mr Cohen is not squeamish about the use of

Indeed the two appointments together could see both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue more united on foreign policy than at any point in Mr Clinton's tenure thus far. If so it will be a good omen for the other Cabinet



## Hoffa junior ready to follow father as Teamsters' boss

Rupert Cornwell Washington

Not long ago, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was supposed to have been purged of its corrupt and infamous past. But in only 10 days' time, to widespread apprehension within the United States labour movement, a man named Hoffa could be back at the helm of the country's most famous and, many would say, still most powerful trade union.

postal balloting has been under way in a government-supervised election of a new leader for the 1.4 million-strong Teamsters. And with just three days to go before the voting closes. the incumbent president, Ron Carey, the man most credited with cleaning up the union - is

in peril of losing his job. Mr Carey's opponent is James P Hoffa Jr, son of the for-mer Teamster president, Jimmy Hoffa, who vanished outside a suburban Detroit restaurant in July 1975, presumed kidnapped and murdered by the Mafia. By deftly exploiting his father's name and the deep resentment among the union old guard of Mr Carey's high-handed meth-ods, Hoffa Junior has given himself more than an outside

chance of victory. Results will be declared next weekend. But the Carey forces, once confident of winning, can now bank on only two of five Teamster regions. The biggest, covering the industrial Midwest, is considered solid Hoffa territory while the remaining two, in the West and the South, are toss-ups. James Hoffa, a Detroit labour

lawyer, insists he has no links with organised crime - "Let's Clear the Air," proclaims his campaign poster, "The Mob Killed My Pather ... There will

father's name during campaigning Photograph: Katz Pictures

be no place for the Mob or its Agents, THEY WILL BE RUN OUT OF THIS UNION." Unabashedly, however, he vows to bring back the old decentralised structure of the Teamsters' glory days under his father, when local officials wielded immense power and could paralyse truck deliveries for a targeted com-

pany, coast-to-coast. Since then the labour universe has been turned on its head. Deregulation, new mformation technology and the virtual demise of the closed shop have vastly weakened unions. Their membership has plunged, sapping their ability to stand up to a new breed of national and multinational companies able to

call on non-union labour at will The Teamsters themselves have, moreover, changed, with less than a third of the membership accounted for by truckers and freight workers. All these problems Mr Carey has

sought to tackle, but at a price. A generation of local hosses has not forgiven him for wresting authority back to the centre, and for closing down more than 60 locals, or branches, suspected of links with organised crime. Neither have Mr Carey's decisions to trim perks for senior officials and raise dues done anything for his popularity.

ure Teamster Po

But despite a vigorous effort by his foes to tar him with the brush of corruption, Mr Carey has undoubtedly cleansed the Teamsters' reputation. All this, leaders of several unions now fear, could be jeopardised by a Hoffa victory, at the very moment a revitalised AFL-CIO, the central labour organisation, is beginning to improve its image and attract new membership.

Much will depend on turnout, already certain to eclipse the 424,000, or 28 per cent, who voted when Mr Carey was elected in 1991. Normally a higher turnout would favour the incumbent. This time the magnetism of the Hoffa name makes any such calculation im-

## **Exodus** starts Kurd panic

Patrick Cockburn

The evacuation of 5,000 Kurds who worked with US aid agencies from northern iraq this week has started a panic among the employees of non-American and agencies. They are fearful of the return of Saddam Hussein. Isolated in Iraqi Kurdistan since braci tanks intervened in August the organisations, which administered one of the largest aid progammes in the world, are

close to collapse.
"We may have to close," said
Roger Briottet, director of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG). a British-based agency which is helping to clear the 10 to 20 million mines laid in Kurdistan during the Iran-Iraq war. These & have already killed more than 2.000 people in the last five years. Mr Briottet said: "The 500 local people we employ are very frightened since the US decided to evacuate.

An equally serious problem is that Turkey has closed its horder to people and equipment crossing into northern Iraq. Turkey says restrictions have been imposed because of concern about the activities of some aid organisations.

Mr Briottet says MAG has

not been able to send mine experts or mine detectors into northern Iraq. The specialists it already has there - mainly former British army experts - are tectors already in place are too old to use safely. Turkey will not allow mine detectors into Iraq because they are regarded as

military equipment.

During the eight years of the Iran-Iraq war more than 2.200 minefields were laid in Iraqi Kurdistan, mostly along the border with Iran.

In the aftermath of the Gulf war, the Kurdish uprising in 1991 and the withdrawal of Iraqi government forces from its three northern provinces, Western aid agencies moved in strength into Kurdistan. They are seen by Baghdad as foreign intruders who imperilled Iraqi

sovereignty. Kurds and Iraqis who work for foreign agencies in Kurdistan have been deeply worried that Saddam Hussein will return permanently to the region after his successful intervention in the Kurdish civil war at the end of then be singled out for punishment. The US has already evacuated 2,700 Iraqis and Kurds who worked directly or indirectly for the US government.

Britain and other Furonean countries have refused to allow immigration by Iraqis associated with their aid programmes.





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#### tonic tones of Henry Kissinger still remind - the first time that loes have called her. Even a Richard Nixon made John Cona naturalised central Eurofriend from the UN calls her nally Secretary of the Treasury in 1971 has a senior Cabinet pean has been invested with the "abrasive", projecting a "cold, mantle of America's top diplohard image". Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Secretary-General mat. But Madeleine Korbel Althat Washington is in the process of ousting, would in pri-vate have choicer epithets still. But Ms Albright has not bright extends the frontier a mighty step further. A glass ceiling has been shattered. For the first time a woman will be Sec-US military force abroad. retary of State. And if her perthrived on nastiness alone. Unformance as Ambassador to like the diffident and retiring the United Nations is any yard-

tions enjoyed both Cabinet the President's National Secu-

working and determined

nation have been her hallmarks. "The Queen of Mean", her Madeleine Albright: Hard

And she has taken full ad-

Warren Christopher whom she will replace, she is a masterly user of television. More precious still, she can claim a longstanding friendship with Bill and Prague, which she left with her family when the Communists

#### thing all are agreed. In almost four years in New York, Ms Alrank and full membership of especially Hillary Clinton. Inposts the President must fill, inbright has been the most powed, Ms Albright's trip this year cluding Transportation, Housing and Energy. A question erful occupant ever of a post with the First Lady to her native shaped in equal measure by mark also hangs over Attorney global political realities and the vantage. Throughout a career General Janet Reno at the Jusvhims of the administration of which has taken her from aide on staged their coup in 1948, was tice Department, especially as Capitol Hill to professor of inthe day. Never before has Washanother woman will hold a sebilled by some as "the audition". ington's envoy to the United Naternational relations at George-10th Dec Order Now For Sales Lines Sensational Price Ocen Until Bon Interest Free Simply Unbeatable! Credit' 2 3 Easy Ways To Pay 16Mb RAM; 256k Cache P150+ Processor 1080Mb Hard Disk Fast 64-bit Graphics & MPEG Full CD Multimedia Massive Software Bundle

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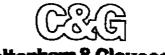
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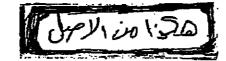
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## internationa

# Chechnya's hostages name their own price

For the armed men who seized llyas, it was a typically Caucasian business transaction, much like selling a rug. They politely ush-ered him into a car, pulled a stocking over his head and drove him for three hours into the Chechen mountains where he was locked in a basement. But it was up to him to name his price. They told me we brought you here for money. We are not interested in anything else'," he said, wringing his hands nervously, "Our busi-

take you away again. Your busi-ness is to produce the money. I had to state the ransom sum." The war may be over in Chechnya, but the atrocities are not. For 21 months, this small republic had to suffer the agonies of war, from the wild bombing of its villages to the destruction of its capital city, Grozny. There is relief from the

ness is to bring you here and to

fighting, but not from discord. The new trade in post-war Chechnya is not in weapons or drugs, it is in people. Every day brings news of a kidnapping in what has become an epidemic easy as falling off a log. Inter-comparable with Beirut at its national aid agencies have been worst. Sometimes they take a prime target. Members of the foreign aid workers, sometimes International Committee of the

Yesterday, five Russian soidiers were added to the scores of people being held in cellars. A mood of deep distrust has set in. As Ilyas told his story, two of his relatives sat with him in the room, cradling Kalesh-nikovs. A hunting rifle lay at his feet. The next time the armed men arrive, they will be ready. But he was fortunate. "Their

Kidnapping has become a daily event, an epidemic comparable with Beirut at its worst

ing matters worse.

It is not only a question of

crime. While some of the ab-

ductions are purely criminal,

others reflect the bigger social

divisions in the aftermath of war. Although, with the with-drawal of Russian troops,

Chechnya is now under a coali-

tion government, no-one dis-

putes that the separatist move-

ment is in charge. Chechens

who worked for the previous

for weeks or months. They believe you will get so fed up you will eventually pay," he said. But when they put me in the basement I noticed the walls faced a neighbour's garden, so I decided to dig a hole." Within just over 24 hours, he was free and hitching a lift home where his relatives had taken up arms and were scouring the streets. Both a lack of money and

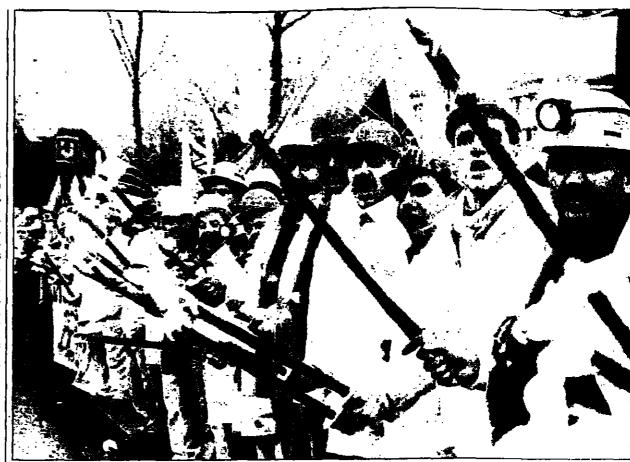
post-war chaos lie beneath the abduction racket. There are precious few jobs in Chechnya, where the infrastructure lies in ruins and money for reconstruction has yet to arrive - and may never materialise. With the last Russian troops leaving. the streets are filled with young armed boivika, bearded sepa ratists still in battle dress. They have spent almost two years fighting for independence but now have nothing to do. As the republic has yet to organise a police force, kidnapping is as Red Cross in Grozny have been abducted with such frequency that the sub-delegation's director, Fery Aalame struggles to

he eventually concludes, count-ing them off under his breath. Mr Aalame's agency is the biggest in the republic, and is busy repairing schools, the But he was fortunate. Their wrecked sewage system and usual tactic is to make you wait hospitals. He has yet to pay out

of Doku Zavgayev now feel so much at risk that some dare not leave their homes.

Ilyas, the son of an influen-tial local administrator, believes he was the victim of crima penny in ransom money, havinals, although his abductors ing recovered staff using a netlooked like separatist soldiers. He comes from Urus-Marian, rumours abound that some ina town of 47,000, which has bareternational bodies have paid \$80,000 (£48,000) for the release ly been damaged - not least because half the inhabitants supported the pro-Moscow govof personnel, attracting complaints that they are only maknment during the war,

Now, as the republic prepares for elections in January, the pro-Zavgayev minority feels under threat. The separatist leadership insists it is doing everything to stop reprisals and crack down on kidnapping. But in Urus-Martan there have already been changes. The town administrator and the iman in the local mosque have been replaced and the deputy adminstrator



Lighting the way: Coal miners from all over Germany carry torchlights as they line up along a main street in Bonn's was kidnapped three days ago. I government quarter yesterday, to protest against cuts in subsidies for the coal-mining industry

## Sell-off row ends unity in France

Mary Dejevsky

For a few hours after the Port Royal bomb in Paris last Tuesday it looked as though the French government was off the numerous hooks on which it has impaled itself since the summer. In adversity, the French rally around the republique and the politicians were quick to exploit the sense of national danger.

The majority Gaullists called for national solidarity. The UDF, the junior partner in the coalition government, stopped sniping at the Gaullists and called for unity. Pressure for a cabinet reshuffle was dissipat-ed and Mr Chirac's brief statement of outrage and sympathy from the steps of the Elysée seemed to satisfy the popular clamour for an "address to the nation".

The trade unions, keen to show themselves as responsible members of society, called off planned strikes and demon-strations in the capital, and the lorry drivers were back at work

or sacked. In short, the political coast looked clear until Christmas at least and a highly unpopular government sud-denly had credibility to spare.

However, any sense of cool competence and national purpose was shortlived, shattered by an announcement that the privatisation commission, a body of seven wise (and usually yes-) men had vetoed the planned privatisation of the Thomson defence, technology

and media group.

The project had been highly controversial because the chosen buyer was not the favourite and because the deal involved the further sale of a Thomson subsidiary, Thomson Multimedia, to the South Korean Daewoo. The price, a symbolic one franc had raised traditionalist and patriotic hackles and the

unions were up in arms.

With the announcement that the deal was off, all the political capital that had accrued to the government after the bombing evaporated. A terse statement from the office of the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, said that the group would still be privatised. The Economy Minister, Jean Arthuis, offered convoluted statements yesterday about how the offer would be reframed "in full transparency" implying that the previous deal had been decided by Mr Juppé without the appropriate ministry

being consulted. The unions and the Socialist opposition were euphoric, the public at large beaused. On the

lieved that a French company such as Thomson could be making a loss and disliked the foreign element of the deal. On the other, they had just been pre-sented with a colossal government U-turn without any explanation or resignation.

This was the second time in a month that the government had called off a privatisation: it shelved plans to sell off the CIC savings bank last month saying the bids were unsatisfactory, then sacked the (governmentappointed) head of the parent company for allegedly obstructing the privatisation.
The Thomson debacle was

far worse: not only had a buyer been found and agreed, but the government had gone out of its way to defend the deal.



Juppé: Rallied the people after Paris bombing

Now, a hitherto rubber-stamp of a committee had rejected it on the grounds (which seemed to support the public's worries) that the large government sub-sidy provided to Thomson as a condition of the sale would find its way into South Korean pockets without any real guarantee that jobs would be created, or even saved, in France.

At once, those of the government's supporters who would naturally have favoured the privarisation - the same peoment of capitulating to the lorry drivers and on welfare reform - were asking themselves again about the Prime Minister's competence. Those who opposed the privatisation in general and the buyer in particular - the same people by and large who supported the long drivers and opposed the very principle of welfare reform were rejoicing over a victory for Prenchness and common sense.

The result is that, three days after a bomb attack that paradoxically seemed to come to the government's aid, Mr Juppe's isolation and the public's cynicism one hand, people had never be-

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YOUR HUNE IS AT BISK IF YOU DO NOT BEEP UP BEPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

## **Georges Duby**

cient architectural settings.

Duby became professor at

vision the tool of art and to

educate viewers with the per-

suasive enthusiasm he himself

In French, the word histoire formed the recreation of his-termine its structure and its evomeans both history and story. The great scholar Georges Duby was both a historian and a teller of stories. His main theme was the daily life of the Middle Ages in France, a period he brought vividly to life with a display of crudition so gracefully presented that one is hardly conscious of reading a work of scholarship, for he was first and foremost a fine writer, with a gift for capturing his readers' attention in his seemingly casual arrangement of the mosaic of human pains and pleasures that underlay a firm, clear grasp of the movements of history. He was one of the most prolific, and most popular of medieval historians.

"I always wanted to put myself in the skin of the men and women of the Middle Ages," he once declared. "When I was studying Saint Bernard, I tried to think as he did." Such an approach is the privilege of the serious povelist. To find it in a historian was for me a revelation of what history really subject at school, where I alnothing. Duby utterly trans-

torical times. "In fact," he lution; and the relations bewrote, "social history is the whole of history."

He was born with an acute sense of social values, and from his childhood in the ancient Marais district of Paris, where his father was a feather-dyer for a treasures of research afforded both haute countre and the ex- by the documents of Clury, he travaganzas of the Folies Bergere, he was able to observe all layers of society at first hand. One might almost say that in the Marais he was already familiar with the essential social structures of the medieval world, both courtly and crude, both luxurious and labouring. Perhaps that is why he claimed he became a historian only by accident

He started off as a student of geography, a solid base for historical comparisons between the tides of men and the evolutions of countrysides and cities. After graduating in 1942. he started teaching and working for his doctoral thesis which centred on medieval society in the region of Macon. It was then meant, for I had detested the that he gained a vision of what history signified: "A society, ready felt that history taught us like a landscape, is a system whose multiple elements de-

tween these factors are not demonstrations of cause and effect, but of correlations, interferences . . ." He did his

fieldwork on foot and on bievcle, and as he plunged into the found obscure place names he was already familiar with on his daily explorations of the countryside. That intense intimacy with the very roots of human behaviour and everyday culture was to illuminate and bring to immediate life the various themes of all his works.

He became assistant professor of medieval history at Besançon in 1949, and in 1951 was made full professor at the university of Aix-en-Provence, a post in which he spent the rest of his academic life, in a country house near the slopes of Cezanne's Mont Sainte-Victoire.

Duby loved art and architecture, and was an excellent artist who counted many painters among his close friends. Among them were André Masson, whom he persuaded to create designs for

works by Mallarmé, Coloridge, felt for all forms of culture, for Sade and Malraux, and to unhe believed that: art is the expression of a social organisation, of society in its entirety, dertake one of his masterpieces, the ceiling of the Odéon in

Paris. He often visited Soulages in its beliefs and in its ideas about itself. It is obvious that a historic mon-ument can tell us as much as tens and at his studio in Sète, and advised him on the designs for the windocuments about what men of times dows he fashioned for the abbey past were doing and thinking, and be-cause such a monument says these things in a different way, it tells us more than words can do. church at Conques, in which we can see a combination of medieval scholarship and a passion for the use of modern art in an-The publisher Albert Skira

the Collège de France in Paris from 1970, making the journey art in the Middle Ages (1966-67), and the most popular of there each week from Aix. He these books, L'Europe des held the Chair of History of Me-dieval Societies. In 1974, he en-Cathédrales, led him to write a sequel, Le Temps des Cathétered the Institut and published drales, which he made into one the three volumes of his Histoire of the most magnificent television art documentaries ever de la France rurale. But he was no ordinary proseen, in which the quality of the fessor. Together with his acadvisuals equals the quality of the emic tasks, he took on public writing in Duby's exemplary works that were an accurate exscript - discreet, yet lyrical pression of his inborn sense of when necessary, and with touch-social duty to his fellow men. He es of irony and malicious wit at took on the presidency of a suthe expense of more convenpervisory council for television tional professors. Only 10 years programmes on Channel 7 (latlater, it is hard to imagine such er to become present-day Arte). entrancing programmes ever It was his ambition to make telebeing presented again - or if so, only at two in the morning. In his later works, Georges

wards literary and artistic themes, as in the epic historical battle drama of Le Dimanche de Bouvines (1973), and, in 1984, the story of an English knight-at-arms, Guillaume le Maréchai. a lively picaresque biography of a courtly hero and his endless tourneys, duels, bravados and other rituals of the sword, based on the 2,000-line verse chronicle by his son Guillaume le Jecommissioned Duby to com-pose a three-volume history of une. This book was originally commissioned as a script for radio, one in which Duby displayed his great dramatic flair and literary versatility to the full. He was a passionate cinemagoer, and he was overjoyed at being asked to prepare a sce-nario for a film of Dimanche de Bouvines. But the materialism of the 1980s and the demands for "easy" viewing gradually extinguished this ambitious project, which could have equalled the battle scenes in Welles's The Chimes at Midnight and the medieval courtly formalism of

> Troyes's octosyllabic lines. In 1987, Duby was elected to the chair of Marcel Arland at the Académie française as "the most illustrious of all French

Eric Rohmer's Perceval le Gal-

lois (1978) with Chrétien de

Duby: 'social history is the whole of history'

at home and abroad are too numerous to list here, but they include election to the American Medieval Academy and the American Philosophical Society, the British Academy and the Royal Historical Society.

But for this man of the present who was also a man of the

medievalists". The other hon-ours showered upon him both readers all over the world be loved and celebrated in all its varied aspects.

James Kirkup

Georges Michel Claude Dury: medieval historian; born Paris 7 October 1919; married 1942.Andree Combier tone son, avo. daughters); died Aix-en-Provence

#### Ralph Tubbs

Ralph Tubbs was just 39 when he designed the Dome of Discovery as the centrepiece of the South Bank site of the 1951 Festival of Britain, a building that established his reputation and for which he would be famous for the rest of his life.

Duby turned more and more to-

Affectionately known as "Ralph's Tub", it was the largest dome in the world at the time at 365ft in diameter – a dimension chosen, he later remarked only half jokingly, because "it was easy to remember". Like all the other festival buildings (save the Festival Hall), however, it was demolished and sold for scrap soon afterwards by the incoming Conservative government of Sir Winston Churchill, which considered it a rump of Clement Attlee's socialist extravaganza,

Born in Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire, in 1912, the son of Sydney W. Tubbs, a chartered accountant, Ralph Tubbs was educated at Mill Hill School and the Architectural Association. A dedicated Modernist, he worked for Ernö Goldfinger (twice, the first time unpaid for a year) and prepared the workng drawings for 2 Willow Road, Hampstead, recently adopted by the National Trust and listed

came secretary of the highly in-fluential MARS (Modern Architectural Research Group).

A lameness in one leg due to a sports injury in childhood prevented him from active service during the Second World War years, so he became a member of the "night watch" at St Paul's Cathedral and designed factories for war production. He also wrote two books for Penguin: Living in Cities (1942) and The Englishman Builds (1945), the former

selling some 134,000 copies.
With Hugh Casson and Misha Black, Tubbs was jointly responsible for the overall planning and execution of the Festival of Britain site on the South Bank, and architect of the Dome which, along with his books aimed at the lay reader, established his professional reputation. "I never sought a client," he said later, as new commissions followed.

In London, these included Baden-Powell House for the Boy Scouts' Association, halls of residence for University College, a factory for Crown Wallpaper, Charing Cross Hospital and Medical School and the Indian Students' Union (the last was listed Grade II in March and his Grade II, and for three years for son Jonathan, an architect, is Maxwell Fry and Walter currently engaged in building an Gropius. In 1939 Tubbs be-extension: residential areas at

Harlow and Basildon new towns; the Granada TV Centre and Studios, in Manchester, and Jersey General Hospital, St Helier, in the Channel Islands. His practice, Ralph Tubbs Architect, founded in 1948, was restricted in size to no more than 26 assistants so that he could maintain personal control of

relationship with clients. At the same time he was active as a member of the Council and Executive Committee of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) 1944-51; vicepresident of the Architectural Association, 1945-47; and was the longest-serving committee member of the Architecture Club, for 42 years until 1994. In 1942 he became an associate of the Institute of Landscape Architects; and in 1952 a Fellow of the RIBA and an OBE. Tubbs's personal interest in insects and the natural world was reflected in his presidency of the Royal Entomological Society of London from 1982 to 1984.

every project and a one-to-one

As a practising architect he was always more of a "herbivore" than a "carnivore", too. He despised the New Brutalism that swept the country within a few years of the Festival of Britain, because it "brutalised people". What he relished daughter); died London 24 No-

architecture" - was its concern for form and proportion, renewed delight in soatial sensation, precision, and alliance with nature.

It is ironic that Tubbs's death followed so soon after plans were unveiled for the dome for the Greenwich Millennium Festival, In his last interview, in the Architects' Journal, just two months ago, he expressed his support for the festival and its location, but was critical of its theme - time - as a lost onportunity, as it "eliminates all things, including us rather than celebrating humanity's needs and achievements. He was especially (and uncharace teristically) vehement in expressing his opinions of several other Millennium projects (including the proposed Ferris wheel for London's South Bank) as "juvenile", "not clever", "gimmicks" and "expensive jokes". Hubris and Mammon had replaced the optimism and cheerfulness which were the hallmarks of the 1951

**Charles Knevitt** 

Ralph Tubbs, architect: born Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire 9 January 1912: married 1940 Mary Taberner (two sons, one

#### **Babrak Karmal**

In the catalogue of betrayal that makes up the history of Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal will always be condemned as the man put in power by the Soviet invasion of 1979. According to KGB defectors he had been recruited as an agent many years earlier; after the Soviet Union decided to replace him with Naiibullah in 1986 he went to Moscow for "medical treatment", never to return, apart from a brief visit in 1991. Many of his fellow Communists in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan hated him just as bitterly, though for entirely different reasons.

A traitor Karmal may have power did not bring peace to and hang him. Compared to

Afghanistan, Najibullah was no more able than his predecessor to defeat the mujahedin uprising or, after the Soviet troop withdrawal in 1989, to reach an accommodation with its leaders. and in 1992 he took refuge with the United Nations in Kabul following an unsuccessful attempt

to fice the country. The mujahedin destroyed the capital in the internecine fighting which began the moment they took over. A few weeks ago they in turn were driven out by a new insurgent movement, the Taliban, whose first act on capturing Kabul was to drag Na-jibullah from the UN compound where he had been a virtual prisbeen, but his departure from oner for more than four years

that, Karmal's fate, which was to die of liver cancer in exile. must have seemed preferable. Karmal was one of a succession of leaders whose impa-

tience to bring Afghanistan into the modern age led them to force imported left-wing ideas on the country, only to be defeated by its ingrained tribalism and conservatism. In the bloody progress from monarchy in the 1970s to rural Islamic fundamentalism today - though along the way Afghanistan has virtually ceased to exist as a nation - he can be seen as a transitional figure.

The son of an army general which had ruled Afghanistan for

more than two centuries, but became intoxicated by the leftwing ideas circulating during a period of mild liberalisation under King Zahir Shah. By the time the inevitable crackdown came in 1953 he was sufficiently prominent a student firebrand to be jailed for three years. In 1965, after military service and completing his law degree, he was one of the founders

of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA). The PDPA was soon to split into two factions, one consisting mainly of rural purists, the other - led by Karmal - of more middle-class rebels. Mutual enand provincial governor, Karmal mity increased after the king's came from the Durrani clan cousin, Daoud, seized power in 1973 amid much fashionable

left-wing rhetoric, and brought Karmal and many of his associates into office. When Daoud was killed in a genuinely leftwing coup five years later, Karmal found it prudent to accept the ambassadorship in Prague, where his KGB recruitment is

presumed to have occurred. His absence proved fortu-nate: the Stalinism of the new regime, run by the opposing PDPA faction, quickly outraged the country. The first leader of the revolution, Nur Mohammed Taraki, was murdered. and Hafizuliah Amin, considered a "smooth-talking fascist" by Moscow, took over. By Demore "reliable" leader. That decision was fatal, both

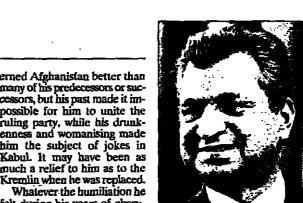
for Karmal and Afghanistan, It put the country at the centre of the Cold War, spurring the West to pour billions of dollars into the mujahedin resistance and Moscow to arm its client regime equally heavily. The war engulfed the Afghan countryside, which until then had remained little affected by political goings-on in Kabul, and the huge stockpile of weaponry built up in those years has kept conflict never-ending.

Karmal himself never recovered from the taint of being installed by a foreign power, and cember 1979 the Soviet Union that knowledge appeared to had had enough, and sent its tell on him. In different cirtroops and tanks to impose a cumstances he might have gov-

erned Afghanistan better than many of his predecessors or successors, but his past made it impossible for him to unite the ruling party, while his drunkenness and womanising made him the subject of jokes in Kabul. It may have been as much a relief to him as to the

Whatever the humiliation he felt during his years of obscurity in exile, Babrak Karmal had the consolation of living out his natural span. It is a privilege rarely enjoyed by Afghan leaders from any period of history. Raymond Whitaker

Babrak Karmal, politician: born c1929; Member of Parliament, Afghanistan 1965-73; Leader,



Photograph: Reuters

Parcham Party 1967-77; Deputy Leader, People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) 1977-78; Ambassador to Czechoslovakia 1978-79; President of Afghanistan 1979-86; died Moscow 3 December 1996.

#### Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

BILLINGTON-GREIG: Fiona, belove BILLINGTON-GREIG: From beloved daughter of Frederick and Teresa. Born 24 December 1915 and died 5 December 1996. Passed peacefully sews in Worthing Hospital. Service, 9.40am. on Tuesday 10 December at Worthing Crematorium. Any enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd, 01903 234516.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Cassay Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 8171-23 2011, or traced to 8171-23 2018, and are charged at \$6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Prince of Wides, President, Business in the Community, opens Phase 2 of the Educata Vising, Diversion, opens Phase 2 of the Educata Vising, Diversion, and meets strates of Community Enterprise Awards, as President, Business in the Community, Instances the Merseyande Challenge Light ID Sourcease's Christmass' at 3 George's 13th, Leverpoole, uponts the Gottervation Centre, Losephol, and as President, the Prinary's Trust, vising Sandoppers's Length, Southport, Lancachine, and meets receptants of respite care and participants of the Prinary's Trust, vising the Challeng, The Prinary of the Prinary Challengers, Challenger, Glospow, and its Patrice, Children, Glospow, and its Patrice, Children Advice Southard visits Maryholf Calcons Advice Byteon, Glospow. ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Forthcoming marriages

Mr K. B. Ward Lilley and Mrs C. S. Pimiett The engagement is announced between Brian Ward Lilley, of Wapping, London, and Carin Pimlott, of Wimbledon, London. The marriage will

take place quietly in the New Year.

Birthdays

Mrs Janet Anderson MP, 47; Lord Ashley of Stoke, former MP, 74; The Ampleforth, 79: Lt-Col Sir Charles Brown Bt. former Deputy Licutenant of North Riding of Yorkshire, 94; Mr Dave Brubeck, jazz musician, 76; Vice-Admiral Sir John Cadell, 67; Lord Clinton-Davis, former MP, 68: Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, 72; Miss Wendy Ellis, ballerina. 45; Lord Emslie, former Lord Justice-General of Scotland, 77; Miss Jill Hammersley-Parker, table-tennis player, 45; Mr Geoffrey Hoon MP, 43; Sir Maurice Kay, High Court judge, 54; Miss Tes sa Kennedy, interior decorator, 58: Mr Jonathan King, broadcaster and pop producer, 52, Mrs Helen Liddell MP, 46, Sir Richard Lloyd, chairman. Vickers plc. 68; Sir Nicholas Lyell QC MP, Attorney General, 58: The Right Rev Professor Eric Mercer, former Bishop of Exercit, 79; Sir Martin Moore-Bick, High Court judge, 50; Mr Anthony Morey, deputy High Commissioner to India, 60; Mr Eric Newly, writer, 77; Sir George Pinker, gynaecological surgeon, 72; Professor Lord Porter of Luddenham, Chairman of the Centre for Photonolecular Sciences, 76; Mr Keke Restore motor-racing champion, 48; Mr Richard Shepherd MP, 54; Professor Sir Bryan Thwaites, former

principal, Westfield College, Landon University, 73; Mr Charles Vance, actor, director and producer, 67; The Right Rev Peter Walker, former Bishop of Ely, 77; Mr Cyril Washbrook, former England cricketer, 82; Mr Peter Willey, former England

Anniversaries

Births: Chrétien-Guillaume de Lamoignon de Malesherbes, statesman, 1721; The Rev Richard Harris Barham ("Thomas Ingoldsby"), hu-morist and author, 1788; Sir Francis Osbert Sacheverel Sitwell, writer, 1892; Ira Gershwin (Israel Gershvin), lyricist, 1896. Deaths: Anthony Troiloge, novelist and Post Office of ficial, 1882; Ernst Werner vo Siemens, inventor, 1892; Roy Orbison (Kelion), singer and composer, 1988; Don Ameche (Dominic Felix Amici), actor, 1993. On this day: Christopher Columbus discovered Hispaniola (now Haiti and Dominican Republic), 1492; the indepen-dence of Finland from Russia was proclaimed, 1917; in Halifax harbour, Nova Scotia, the ship Mant Blanc, loaded with 3,000 tons of TNT, collided and exploded, killing 1,654 people, 1917; the Irish Free State was established, 1922; war broke out be-tween India and Pakistan, 1971. Today is the Feast Day of St Abraham of Kratia, St Asella, Saints Dionysia, Majoricus and their Companions, St Gertrude the Elder and St Nicholas

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Same Difference (i): Like it or not! Same sitters, different por-

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Colin ager, "The Age and Composition of the Solar System", 1pm.

Luncheons Anstralia and New Zealand Chambers of Commerce

Mr Graham Mirabito, Managing held yesterday by the Australian and New Zealand Chambers of ommerce at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel, London SW1, Mr Brian Harris, Chairman, Australian British Chamber of Commerce (UK) received the guests.

Receptions

Lord Mayor of Westminster The Lord Mayor of Westminster, Mr Robert Davis, and Miss Carole Franco, the Lady Mayoress, hosted a re-ception yesterday evening at City Hall, London SWI, before the Lighting-Up Ceremony of the Norwegian Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square. ristmas Tree in Trafalgar Sq The Queen of Norway and the Duke of York were among those present

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be beld tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3.38pm. United Synagogoes: 0171-387 4306

Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263, Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663, Reform

Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New

naçogue (Masorti): 0171-328

Co's Brewery pic and another; Court of Appeal (Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Phillips, Sir John Balcombe) 20 November 1996 An order for costs against a

non-party, such as the legal expenses insurers of an unsuccessful plaintiff, should only be ordered where exceptional circumstances made it reasonable and just to do so. The mere fact that the insurers had funded the litigation under a commercial agreement was not enough to justify such an order. The Court of Appeal dis-

missed an appeal by the first

defendant, Young & Co's Brewery plc, against the refusal of Mr Griffiths-Williams QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on 9 May 1995, to order the second defendant, Sun Alliance & London Insurance plc, to pay the first defendant's costs of an action brought against it by the plaintiffs, Daniel Joseph Murphy and Christine Anne Murphy.

The Murphys were employed by Youngs to manage a public house. Youngs dismissed them for breach of duty. The Murphys brought an action for wrongful dismissal. Their claim was dismissed and

#### Legal expenses insurer need not pay costs LAW REPORT

Youngs were awarded £16,000 on their counterclaim together with almost all the costs,

The Murphys were insured by Sun Alliance under the American Express Legal Expeases plan. Their limit of cover in respect of any one claim was £25,000. They exhausted their right to indemnity in respect of this action, their own expenses having exceeded that limit. In these circumstances Sun Alliance denied any liability to meet Young's costs in the event of the Murphys being unable to do so.

taxed at £42,806.

Andrew Hillier (Druces & Attlee) for Youngs; Stuart Isaacs QC and Neil Calver (Osborne Clarke) for Sun

Lord Justice Phillips said that the jurisdiction provided by section 51(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, under which costs "shall be in the discretion of the court, and the court shall have full power to determine by whom and to what extent the costs are to be paid", was not subject (as had been believed) to an implied limitation that

against those who were parties to the litigation: see Aiden Shipping Co Ltd v Interbulk Ltd

[1986] AC 965. However, an order for the payment of costs by a non-party would always be exceptional. The ultimate question was what was reasonable and just on the facts of the individual case.

In Chapman Ltd v Christopher (unreported: 23 May 1996) the plaintiffs recovered damages in excess of £1m from an impecunious defendant who was covered against liability for damages and costs up to £1m under his mother's household policy with Sun Alliance. Judge Zucker OC ordered Sun Al-

liance to pay the plaintiffs' costs. But it would not always be appropriate to order liability insurers to pay the plaintiff's costs where they had unsuccessfully defended a claim against their insured if the result would be to render them liable beyond their contractual limit of cover.

In this case, Sun Alliance had funded the Murphys' litigation under a commercial agreement, but that seemed the only costs could only be awarded ground that could validly be ad-

vanced for ordering Sun Al-liance to pay Youngs costs. In particular:

1) Sun Alliance had no interest in the result, save insolar as this af-fected their liability to pay costs. 2) Sun Alliance did not initiate the litigation. They were contractually bound to fund it up to the limit of £25,000 and would have been better off if the litigation had never 3) Sun Alliance exercised no control

the conduct of the Šun Alliance could not be accused of "wanton and officious intermed

Legal expenses insurance was in the public interest, particularly if it was on the terms

of the cover in this case. An order under section 51 that a non-party pay costs would only be justified when exceptional circumstances made such an order reasonable and just. This case did not fall within any of the categories of exceptional circumstances that

might justify such an order. The existence of legal expense insurance with a limit of cover that had been exhausted did not make it reasonable or iust to order the insurer to pay the costs of the adverse suc-

Paul Magrath, Barrister

cessful party.

## Why oh why can't politicians get their facts right?

he danger is that more and standards required for algebra and reamore students are going to be educated for longer and longer at greater public expense to know less and less." Discuss.

Chris Woodhead, the chief schools inspector, provided us yesterday with a text for the educational angst of our time. It pungently expresses the view of the "Why oh why" brigade, the clamour of Middle England which is a whine against national decline. Why oh why can't graduates spell these days? Why do so many young people destroy their chance of work experience by addressing their request to *The Independant?*It was worrying that Mr Woodhead, a

public servant, seemed to be speaking yesterday for the right-wing ideologues who have laid siege to the educational establishment. But the important question is whether he is right. Although he did not quite say so in so many words, it sounded as if he were saying that A-level students "know less and less".

The trouble is that the principal finding of yesterday's report, commissioned in response to the persistent Middle-English complaint that A-levels are get-ting easier, is that we don't know. The reason we don't know is because hardly any of the candidates' scripts have been kept over the past 20 years. (The exception to this is maths, where an authoritative study by the London Mathematical Society last year found that maths A-levels had become easier, and that

soning had dropped. (However, as maths has always been harder to pass than other A-levels, this could be defended as a much-needed adjustment.) So Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, has promised to set up an archive to preserve the nation's youthful outpourings, on one side of the paper only.

This carelessness of record-keeping means we are destined not to escape the dreadful familiarity and circularity of the annual argument over falling standards every time results are published. And it means that Mrs Shephard is allowed to bamboozle people by declaring that she wants to return to "traditional" A-levels, with more stress on grammar and mental arithmetic rather than calculators in GCSEs, using the words "rigour" and 'gold standard" as often as possible. These are rhetorical devices being

bandied about in an evidence-free zone. So let us start with those parts of Mr Woodhead's statement on the BBC's Today programme for which there is evidence. More and more students are being educated for longer and longer. But he is wrong to suggest that this is being achieved at greater public expense. Spending per student has fallen. It is a tribute to the efficiency of our education system that it has been able to absorb such an expansion in numbers, both of the 16-18 age group and of over-18s, on such limited resources.



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However, much is wrong with the education system, especially in England and Wales rather than Scotland and Northern Ireland, and much in particular is wrong with A-levels. As David Blunkett reminded us yesterday, the Prime Minister himself declared three years ago that the top 15 per cent of young people in Britain were equal to their peers anywhere in the world, but admitted that the remaining 85 per cent "frankly are not". Highly-competitive and specialised A-levels serve this top academic group well, but that is anyway not our real problem. The difficulty is how to broaden the base of the system

so that it serves the not-quite-brilliant equally well.

Here Mrs Shephard's rhetoric is found wanting. Merely urging examiners to "take into account" use of grammar and mental arithmetic does not address the problem of over-specialisation and narrow academic focus. Nor is the government's other stock answer, which is the AS-level, the so-called "half" A-level, so far promoted unsuccessfully.

Mr Blunkett is more persuasive, seeking to ensure that all 18-year-olds. apart from those with special needs. achieve the equivalent of five A, B or C passes at GCSE. This compares with the

two-thirds reaching this level now. Using this standard as a platform. Mr Blunkett proposes an Advanced Diploma awarded to 18-year-olds passing a balanced package including three A-levels and an AS-level or vocational qualification, which would ensure that all arts students were numerate and all scientists literate. This would resemble the German Abitur (though not as broadly based), which is probably a better model than the French baccalaureate, and is a reasonable way of broadening A-levels while being sensitive to popular anxieties

about diluting them.

These are the kinds of questions which should dominate the national debate on education, rather than side arguments about whether people should be allowed to use calculators. Instead, yesterday's report continued, by its very inconclusiveness, to allow the debate to drift aimlessly back into the obsession

with declining A-level standards. If there is evidence of schools "trading down" to "easier" exam boards, then Mrs Shephard - who has already said she "would not shrink from" cutting the number of exam boards - should set up a single national exam board. Yesterday's report suggested that there was some such evidence, contradicting another report from Newcastle University last year, which found that standards were comparable across boards. Has Mrs Shephard promised to nationalise exam boards? She has not.

Other countries are not like ours. The assumption that high-level education has to be rationed is an English disease. In 1950, only 5 per cent of French children took the baccalaureate. Now, 50 per cent do. In France, more and more children are expected to achieve this standard every year. In Germany and the Far East the assumptions are the same. The terms of the debate in this country have been changing for the better over the past 10 years. Mrs Shephard would be wrong to start turning her party's own

#### Never mind the quality...

o, jockeys paid a retainer perform less well than those who get to Share in the proceeds of winning the race. Shake the biscuit tin, and Payloy's dogs wag their tails. It might work with jockeys and dogs, but performance pay has signally tailed elsewhere. Do we pay a director more for clever long-term investment, or kicking up the share price by asset-stripping? Should we pay a faster surgeon more, or a lorry driver? Quality of output should matter as much as quantity - not a distinction for which jockeys (or dogs) are particularly famous.

#### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

#### Lawbreaking by police to be legalised

Sir: Patricia Wynn Davies commented on the bugging provisions of the Police Bill and reported that Liberty had obtained a legal opinion that those provisions violated the right to privacy contained in the European Convention on Human Rights ("State licence to bug and burgle",

3 December).
Jack Straw has argued that the police have been acting for many years as if they already had these powers. This illegality by the police cases that Liberty has been involved with, one of which is pending with the European Commission of Human Rights.

Parliamentary acceptance of the use of listening devices in absence of any real controls will make the situation worse. However much we may admire chief officers of police for their integrity and independence, trusting the police to police themselves is not an adequate safeguard. The placing of listening devices by the police in the past did break the law: that is why they need this legislation. Who was it that authorised police officers to do this under the bad old scheme? Why, chief officers of police of course!

It has been argued that the new provisions allow for supervision by a judge. However, complaints will be rare because we will never be told we are being listened to. My client whose case is pending in Strasbourg only found out he was under surveillance when he moved his furniture to find the police had drilled a hole through the wall to insert the bug. The Police Bill is of great

constitutional significance. The Government and the Labour Party have failed to recognise this, presumably because they believe that being tough on crime requires them also to be tough on constitutional and human rights. Those innocent of any crime will be subject to its powers either because without independent controls the police will get sloppy or because the police, who have a history of gathering "intelligence" on those who have different lifestyles, political opinions or skin colours from the majority, need only ask their own boss for permission. JOHN WADHAM Director Liberty London SE1

Sir: Now, had Nixon had a Part III of the Police Bill ...
PETER B J EVELEIGH

#### Lib Dems fear Labour embrace

Sir. In your report (23 November) of "unrest" about the idea of a Liberal Democrat coalition with Labour, you quoted one source as saying: Mr Ashdown will tell the dissidents that the party endorsed his strategy ... at its party conference in 1995 ... We

understand their concern but they are a small minority of people who are isolated."

I have little knowledge of Liberal Democrat feeling other than in the North-west region, of which I have the honour to be president, but in this region, opposition to a formal coalition with Labour is very strong

The writer was Liberal Democrat MP indeed.



There is deep concern about joint working parties, but most of us are prepared to tolerate that provided it in no way

compromises our independence as a party, even on those issues being discussed - but anything more than that, such as cabinet seats and propping up a Labour government, would be bitterly resented. It would be a gross betrayal of our party and its in the dense and any Libertal independence, and any Liberal Democrat MP or peer taking such a seat would be betraying his or her heritage.
Such a move would split our

party, with scores and scores of our members, of whom I would be but one, failing to renew their membership. It would do irreparable damage.

That is why so many of my friends believe we should renounce that step now. If we do not, it will cost us parliamentary seats in the 1997 election as similar suggestions did in 1992.

I will always refuse to name names, but I know of at least four of our MPs opposed to a formal coalition, I know of at least five of our peers, and many of our prospective parliamentary

The only possible excuse would be a guarantee of proportional representation (not the alternative vote) in the first 12-month sessionand that's like our chance of winning the Lottery.

Talking is acceptable. Coalition

is suicide, merely to satisfy three or four egos, and we are most definitely not a "small minority".
Sir CYRIL SMITH

for Rochdale until 1992

#### Wrong questions over Europe

Sir: Andrew Marr is quite right that "We're having the wrong arguments" (4 December). One of these is the fantasy argument of Sir James Goldsmith's referendum question, which assumes that we can stay in the single market without any common regulatory institutions. Dismantling economic protection, like dismantling military protection, entails a very real confidence that one's partners are willing to compete on equal

Sir James Goldsmith's illusion is shared by the Prime Minister. In his opposition to the Working Hours Directive he has claimed we should not adopt it because we derive a competitive advantage from not doing so. If he is right in this claim, he is entitled as ruler of a sovereign state not to adopt it. What he is not entitled to do is to claim any right to trade in the single market at the same timę. Esri RUSSELL

Liberal Democrat Social Security House of Lords

Sir. It would not be a bad idea for anybody, not just Britain, to be outside a "highly-regulated, centralised, undemocratic and unstable Germanic superstate" and that goes for the Federal Republic of Germany as well. Andrew Marr's stab at demonology à la Ridley is not

worthy of his otherwise lucid observations ("We're having the wrong arguments", 4 December). The Federal Republic's democratic institutions would not be a bad blueprint for any political entity irrespective of its geographic origin or construction.

JOACHIM TANGEMANN Englefield Green, Surrey

#### Best deal for junior doctors

Sir: Dr S A Wajed (letter, 3 December) confuses the limits of hours of duty with hours actually worked. The New Deal sets a maximum of 72 hours of duty per week. The 56-hour limit applies to the actual bours of "on your feet"

He states that the views of the Junior Doctors Committee are not shared by the majority of junior doctors. That is not borne out by the increased numbers of juniors who have become members of the British Medical Association since the New Deal was agreed (69 per cent of all juniors in 1992, rising to

82 per cent this year).
We would accept that in some hospitals the workload while oncall has increased as a consequence of changing work practices and we have been able to negotiate an agreement with the Department of Health that allows doctors working onerous on-call rotas to be transferred to flexible shift patterns with higher rates of overtime pay.
It is absolutely incorrect that the

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reduction in hours has resulted in reduction of pay. Juniors used to receive 30-38 per cent of their basic salary for overtime hours. This has now increased to between 50 and 100 per cent of basic salary as an integral part of the New Deal which would not have been achieved without the reduction in hours. Consequently, juniors received the biggest real increase in pay since 1973.

The New Deal replaced arduous and inhumane working conditions with juniors working upwards of 90 hours per week. To go back to such appalling arrangements would be to the detriment of all juniors' health, training and family life, to say nothing of the more important issue of patient safety. Dr PETER BENNIE.

Chairperson Junior Doctors Committee British Medical Association London WCI

#### Sue them all

Sir: As a fervent advocate of accountability, I applaud the acumen and initiative of the two tecnagers pursuing damages from the school that allegedly failed to provide them with their full quota of GCSEs (report, 2 December). In the interests of equity, I trust that pupils who approach their academic studies with undue levity and parents who deliver fractious offspring into my jurisdiction should also be subject to sizeable

Constant, E. (or perhaps the Mercouri Constant, to please our financial penalties; such reprobates might cause my school to be

friends in Athens) as the connecting factor.
We would then find that

 $E \times \pi \times 10^3 \text{mH} = P$ E would have the value of 1, and units of (ships). The parthenon would then equal 3,142 millihelens Will this suffice? IAN C DODSWORTH

relegated in the Examination

Sir: If the courts decide that the

two pupils suing their former school for their examination failure

(report, 2 December) have no case,

may we assume that they will then sue their solicitor for his failure to

Sir: The erudite response of R N

Robinson (letter, 30 November),

Presumably the millihelen has

dimensionless. We can assume, I

think, that Athena would not have

allowed her temple to be equated

with the beauty of a mere mortal.

and would have reduced the value

of the belon by the factor  $pi(\pi)$ 

So I humbly offer the Elgin

challenges me to relate the two

units of beauty, the millihelen

(mH), and the parthenon (P).

units of (ships) 1, while the

parthenon is presumably

League and dent my career

LORRAINE CUMING

The Misbourne School

Head of Stah Form

Great Missenden.

Buckinghamshire

win the case?

London 116

Face value

#### Widowers face hardship too

Sir: I was interested to learn ("Why I should give my widow's pension back". 4 December) that Polly Toynbee was entitled to a widowed mother's allowance of £123 a week. I, as a widower father with two daughters to bring up, am entitled to no such allowance

When my wife died our net income was reduced by over £300 per week and the allowance would have helped make up the deficit. Fortunately, like Ms Toynbee, I am gainfully employed and so do not have to depend on any such allowance and would be more than happy to see such resources ected to help those in real r

However, those in real need include many men in my situation who are less well paid or, like many widows, have chosen to stay at home to look after their children. Such men provide another example of the many ways in which our society has changed since such benefits were introduced. It is an inequality that appears to have been overlooked by everyone.

Until there is equality of entitlement, we widowers will never have the option to accept or reject such a generous allowance. It would have been greatly appreciated if so eloquent and influential a widowed mother could have put in a good word for us as Dr PETER DOYLE Guildford.

#### How to prevent food disasters

Sir: You rightly draw attention in your leading article of 4 December to the apparent conflicting responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) to both food producers and consumers. The view has been expressed that the conflict of interest contributed to the current BSE situation.

This is made worse by the fact that the responsibilities for food safety fall to nine government ministries. In addition to Maff, the Department of Health, the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Offices, the Home Office, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Foreign Office and the Department of the in aspects of food production and food safety. In the circumstances it is hardly surprising that we have been facing a catalogue of food

safety disasters . The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health is one of a number of bodies calling for an independent Food Agency, which could be responsible for strategic direction and for disseminating clear and accurate messages to the public. MICHAEL COOKE

Chief Executive Chartered Institute of Emironmental Health London SE I

#### Feverish

Sir: I am not acquainted with the use of thermometers in all countries ("Diane Abbott is sorry". 29 November, letter, 2 December). However I do recall anguished Italian faces as I plopped the appliance in mouth rather than under ampit, their preference. **GEOFF YATES** Kingston upon Thames

essay

For Bernard Arnault, quality comes before cost. That's why he's ready to pay over £100m for a small French vineyard. By **Nicholas Faith** 



ore than £120m is a hefty price to pay for a small farm, but that's the value Bernard Arnault, one of France's most astute businessmen, has placed on Château d'Youem.

Of course, Yquem, complete with fairy-tale chateau perched atop a sea of vines, is no ordinary estate. Its 260 acres of vines in Sauternes, 20 miles south of Bordeaux, produce the best, and most expensive, sweet white wine in the world. Indeed, in the famous 1855 classification of the wines of Bordeaux, only Yquem was deemed worthy of the accolade of Premier Cru Superieur, other Sauternes, and even the greatest clarets such as Chateau-Lafite, had to be content with being called Premiers Cru.

Unfortunately for the owners, this nectar comes only in minute quantities. Whereas every vine producing black grapes yields a bottle of fine red wine, those at Youem grants a years, most recently 1992, no 1968. wine at all worthy of the great name is produced and in many other years, less than half the wine produced is deemed wor-

thy of the name. This is because of the extrabotrytisation, in which the ations, shares in an estate like

grapes, attacked by a tiny fungus, shrivel into unappetising-looking raisins which have to be gathered one by one during a harvesting season that can last well into December.

It's hardly surprising, then, that a bottle of the 1990 vintage, the last to be released, is worth more than £100 on the Bordeaux market.

But the purchase of a major-ity stake in Yquem by M Arnault's group, the clumsily named LVMH (it stands for Louis Vuitton-Moët Hennessy) is not just a nine-day wonder. It is a startling example of how profoundly French habits differ from those prevailing on this side of the Channel. Sadly, it is part of a trend in which the greatest names in Bordeaux are now increasingly in the hands of financial institutions or groups

such as LVMH. In most cases, the newcomers have the funds to produce better wine than the previous owners - although Yquem has been brilliantly run by Comte mere glass. Moreover, in some Alexandre de Lur-Saluces since

estates, is the diktor, dating, like so much else in France. from the days of Napoleon L This decrees that a parent has ordinary nature of the whole to divide the family property process. The concentrated qual- more or less equally among all ity of the wine comes from a his or her offspring. This natural phenomenon called ensures that after a few gener-

Yquem are held by large num-bers of distantly related cousins, many of whom will be far more interested in ready cash than in the exiguous dividends - including a few cases of the wine nich they got as their share of

the botrytised spoils. This problem has been exacerbated by the vast increase in the value of estates such as Yquem. When M de Lur-Saluces took over the management of the estate in 1968, it was worth less than a tenth of today's price. Despite his success, it seems likely that he will be one of the first victims of the

This is not the only way in which the sale marks a sad day for Bordeaux and has naturally aroused a considerable storm of

Yquem has been in the hands of a single family for more than 400 years - far longer than any other estate in France. It was leased from the French crown in 1593 - having first been taken from King Henry VI in 1453 by a M Jacques de Sauvage.

In 1785, his direct descendant Françoise-Josephine Yquem, as of many other Sauvage d'Yquem married a M de Lur-Saluces. He died three years later, but his widow fought against all the odds and managed to hold on to the estate during the upheavals of the French revolution.

Since then, successive generations of Lur-Saluces have run the estate on behalf of an

increasing number of family deal lies in Bernard Arnault's shareholders who, led by M de reasoning. The name of the have finally decided to cash in

their profit. The positive - and equally gives only distinctively Gallic-side of the it covers.

Lur-Saluces's elder brother, group he has built up with astonishingly deft financial footwork over the past 10 years gives only a hint of the brands

including Moët & Chandon, Veuve Clicquot and Pommery (the latter snatched from a British bidder at the last minute in a successful attempt to ensure

They include many of the that such a proud old name great names of Champagne, remained in French hands). In Cognac, he controls Hine and Hennessy, the biggest name in the business, and Louis Vuitton is the most famous name in the glitzy luggage business. M

Arnault has steadily increased his presence in the perfume and fashion world which includes Christian Dior, as well as backing Christian Lucroix in his risc to fame and fortune.

Like Yquem, all these businesses have one common feature. They are synonymous with luxury the world over, and M Amault makes no secret of his belief that such names represent a guarantee of long-term profit, if the glamour inherent in the name, and the monopole power it represents, is properly exploited.

This policy involves not only policing the brand to ensure that its value is not dragged down by using it for inferior or down-market produces. It also means consistent long-term spending to improve the products, and to add and promote "brand extensions" which can range as far as the sleek Barhour-type jackets sold under Dior, a name once only associated with perfume and baute

Such an approach is necessarily long-term, for it can take a new brand into a profitable item on the balance sheet.

This is where the story of M Amault and Chateau Youem take on relevance for the British economy. For British quoted companies, in contrast to those in France, are inevitably dominated by the need to show the 2 3 City that earnings are rising every three months. Hence the fact that only a handful of companies - including some in the drinks business - are capable of nurturing brands old and new and thus creating a capital asset. They are difficult to value, but worth more in the long run than the bricks and mortar beloved of the accountants who dominate British business. Hence, I fear, the absence of a British Arnault and a growing gap in the commercial armoury of British business.

Nicholas Faith is editorial director of the French magazine Anthony Rose 'L'Amateur de Bordeaux'



## ins extraordinaires

case of Rolls-Royce, Yves Saint Laurent, Faberge, the Ritz, Concorde, the name says it all: exclusivity, luxury and snob value. A similar unpalatable irony permeates Yquem and the world of wine. As Edmund Penning-Rowsell, author of The Wines of Bordeaux, likes to point out, "the best wines get poured down the wrong throats". The blue chip names may be familiar, but the closest most of us ever get to more than gawp at fancy labels is in our dreams

dwell in Bordeaux, where the prestige of the five First has been eclipsed this year by a Growths is immutable. Since the new Pomerol phenomenon: 1855 Bordeaux classification elevated Château Haut-Brion, Lafite, Latour and Margaux to the head of the list, the addition Christie's New York this year to

That's in a name? In the in 1973 of Mouton-Rothschild has transformed the fab four a case - or £400 a glass. into the famous five. Reclassified alphabetically since 1973 to spare sensitive owners' feelings, each battles for top place every vintage. Haut-Brion is widely regarded as top in 1989 for instance, Larour in 1990.

The classification conve-

niently omits the famous five's rivals from the right bank of the Dordogne, but Château Cheval Blanc and Ausone in St-Emilion command as much respect as Lafite or Latour and prices to match. Château Petrus, the rare The fanciest of French labels Pomerol property, is the most expensive of the lot. Even Petrus Château Le Pin Gold dust comes cheaper than the 1982 vintage of Le Pin, which sold at

a Far Eastern buyer for £28,000 The Domaine de Romanée-Conti, or DRC, is the

most prestigious estate in Bur-gundy with Romanée-Conti itself the most highly prized of its six wines. The DRC's redoubtable part-owner, Madame Lalou Bize-Leroy, lost control of the estate in a power struggle in 1992; her Richebourg now attains higher prices than all the DRC wines except for Romanée-Conti.

The Rhône valley's Hermitage rivailed Bordeaux in the last century for prestige, but star status has only returned recently to the Rhône thanks largely to the praise heaped on its wines by the American critic, Robert Parker. Great older vintages of Paul Jaboulet's Hermitage La Chapelle are now highly prized,

but the sky's the limit virtually on day one of release for Marcel Guigal's three top Côte-Rôties, La Mouline, La Landonne and La Turque.

The glamour of champagne makes it the ultimate status symbol. According to Paul Bowker of Christie's, the scarcity value of Krug Clos de Mesnil and Bollinger Vieilles Vignes Françaises gives these two rare champagnes the edge on price. But Moët et Chandon's Dom Perignon is the most obvious fashion statement in de luxe champagne. If DP, as its Hollywood admirers call it, is consumed for its power to win friends and influence, Krug is the purring Mercedes of champagnes, Roederer Cristal the elegantly crafted Lalique.



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## Queen Darlene comes clean



Miles Kington

Testerday, we brought you an extract from the sensational trial currently taking place in the High Court, in which Mr and Mrs Norbert are suing the Tory party for 15 years of misrule on the grounds that Mr Norbert has never had a job during that time and Mrs Norben has been awaiting an operation since 1985. Counsel for the Norberts hascalled the Queen as a surprise witness, on the grounds that as it is Her Majesty's Government being called into question, she should be allowed to defend it. We join

the case as Her Majesty takes the witness stand. Judge: May I say what a asure it is to have you in one of our humble courts? I don't suppose your Majesty remembers, but we met briefly during a Buckingham Palace garden party several years ago... Queen: It is quite possible. One meets so many people. Judge: Yes, I'm sure. Perhaps

you remember my saying how good the begonias were this Connsel: M'lud? Judge: What? Counsel: May I continue? Judge: Oh, yes. Your witness, I think.

Counsel: Now, your Majesty. you are, I think. Elizabeth Windsor, Queen of England? Queen: Correct. Counsel: What is your occupation? Queen: I am Queen of Counsel: No - I mean, what do you actually do? Queen: I rule. Counsel: Via what agency? Queen: My government. Counsel: Ah ha! And how do you rate this government?

Queen: The present

government?

steam, they don't want a Queen lookalike, except to Counsel: Yes. Queen: The one that has been in power for 15 years? Queen: I think they stink worse than a kangaroo's droppings. I wouldn't trust them to clean up the streets of Sydney for fear they'd pick-up the rubbish and sell it back to us. If I found myself in a lifeboat with them, I'd throw myself to the sharks! Judge: Your Majesty... Queen: Yes? Judge: Forgive me asking you, but you are her Majesty, aren'i you? Queen: What makes you

think otherwise? Judge: Well, you may look like the Queen, but you don't sound much like her. You have something of an Australian tinge to your diction. And I don't think the Queen: All right, blast your eyes! You win! I'm not the Queen! I'm Dariene Hordle! I'm a Queen lookalike from Brisbane, and I wish I'd never opened my mouth in your damned country! I used to earn good money in Australia masquerading as the Queen, but ever since this republican

movement got under full

make fun of! After I was half peited to death in a bunfight in Queensland, I decided to emigrate to Britain, where I could continue my career as the Queen, even though my experiences have converted me to republicanism! Can you imagine the personal tragedy of a republican trapped in a Queen's body? Judge: Hmm... So you have been coached by the prosecution to say these things about the government, have you? Queen: Not at all. I believe them devoutly. Judge: As the Queen, or as Darlene Hordle? Oueen: Both. Judge: Fimm... tell me, Mr Bristlethwaite, why did you lead the court to believe we were about to receive the Queen, when all we got was Darlene Hordle of Brishane? Counsel: That is all we could afford, m'Lud. You must remember that the Norberts. like millions of ordinary British families, have been kept impoverished by the actions of the Tory government. How could they

afford the real Queen? It is

another indictment of this morally bankrupt administration. And now I propose to call hundreds more witnesses to testify that this clapped-out government is well past its self-by date, staggering from one crisis to another like the honeward progress of a drunkard who can remember neither where he lives nor where he last saw his front-door key! Judge: That's very good, Is that your description or did you make it up? Counsel: Neither, m'Lud. It was coined by William Gladstone, my Lord. Judge: About the present government? Counsel: I really couldn't say. m'Lud. And new I propose to call another member of the highest family in the hard. Call the Duke of Edinburgh. Duke: G'day. Counsel: Your Royal Highness, do you have as low an opinion of the present government as the previous witness? Dube: Strewth - I should say so, sport! Judge: Just a moment! There are one or two questions I want to put to you, Duke ... The case continues

## Will we ever see the back of business bungs?

pen a newspaper any day and there is a good chance there will be a report about corruption in it. Today's quota comes from Irish politics, but it could be from anywhere in the world, for whether corruption is actually rising, concern about it certainly is

Actually, Ireland does pretty well on the world league of cor-ruption. It is equal 11th with the UK, behind such paragons as New Zealand, Denmark and Singapore, but ahead of Germany, the US, France and Japan, and far ahead of Italy. (At the bottom of this table, produced by an organisation called Transparency Interna-tional, come Pakistan, China and Indonesia.)

Concern is rising for several reasons. The integration into the world economy of the Soviet Union and China has made the West more aware of the different ethical values of these two societies. The fact that more North American and Western European companies are seeking to do business in "new" mar-kets has raised the practical question as to whether they should apply home country or local country ethical standards.
And maybe Western companies have become more squeamish. or maybe just more hypocritical, than they used

sion" that they should pay to secure orders. Quite suddenly, there has been a string of conferences, academic papers and speeches about the costs of corruption. The International Monetary Fund is worrying about money laundering: the European Union (itself not entirely corruption-free) is trying to curb trans-national bribery, and last month James Wolfensohn, the president of the World Bank, attacked the corruption of the organisation's home city, Washington DC. Just before his speech, Mayor Barry, who would have been on the platform. slipped out of the room.

to be about the acceptable levels of "commis-

These attacks have a common theme - corruntion makes countries and cities poorer than they would otherwise be. But how much poorer? Can you actually measure the effect? There are perfectly good moral reasons for seeking to curb corruption, which in general rewards the few at the expense of the many. But cool economics seems more likely to provoke change than hot rhetoric.

There is a lot of academic work in analysing the sources of corruption and measuring its effects on economic performance, work which has been summarised in an IMF paper by Paolo Mauro, and will be in a book called Corruption and the World Economy, published by the Washington-based Institute for Interna-

tional Economics. Quite a lot of corruption, it seems, is caused by government policy. When governments impose regulations and give too much discretion to officials as to how these should be applied, they create opportunities for bribery. all increase the scope for bribes to be on the corruption league. They do not even demanded and paid. Even government indus-rank on it.



Hanrish McRae

East-West trade has triggered an economic debate about cracking down on corruption

trial policy encourages bribery - there is a link, apparently, between subsidies to manufacturing and the level of corruption. And the lower the level of civil service pay, the greater the chance that civil servants will seek to extract bribes.

The effect of corruption can be very big. A couple of studies suggest that if a country improves its corruption performance by 2-2.5 points on the scale of one (worst) to ten (best), it can increase investment by 4 per cent of GDP and boost growth by half a percentage point each year. That is the gap in the level of corruption, as perceived by business people, between France and Denmark, or Italy and Spain. But how on earth do you move a country along the scale - how do you cut corruption?

This is beyond the scope of the IMF study, but there seem to be two broad approaches. One is to call for tighter regulation, greater co-operation between governments, pressure for higher ethical standards by companies and so on. This is the mainstream view, espoused by the political establishment, and there is obviously much ment in it. There is also, alas, a high level

of hypocrisy.
For example, I happen to know that one giant US company which is particularly active in pressing for higher ethical standards used its financial power with New York banks to wreck the refinancing of a much weaker foreign corporation. Only when the weaker company threatened to shop it to the appropriate US Rederal authorities did the giant lay off. Beware multinationals that boast about

There is an alternative approach, which is to start not by putting pressure on the payers of bribes, but on the recipients - often government officials or politicians. If one cuts capital spending by governments, there are fewer of the large white elephant" projects which seem to generate opportunities for bribery. Simplifying planning controls also helps. The amount gov-eruments spend on education seems to be associated with corruption. Though the causal link is not clear, it would seem common sense that the better-educated people are, the less thrilled they are when they are asked to pay bribes. The spread of education and in particular the creation of an articulate middle-class helps shift the balance of power away from the few who can benefit from corruption towards the many who are hurt by it. That process seems, for example,

to be happening in Mexico. The most hopeful view about global corruption comes from what many would argue is at present the most corrupt region - the for-mer Soviet Union. Anatoly Chubais, President Yeltsin's economic guru, believes that as wealth spreads in Russia, market forces will inevitably shift the balance of power against the Mafia. The market becomes self-policing - good money will, so to speak, force out bad. I hope Trade restrictions, subsidies and price controls be is right. I checked to see where Russia was

# Speaking up for the right to abortion

by Suzanne Moore

s we move into the season of goodwill and bad taste, the children of Dunblane's song, a reworked version of Dylan's Knockin' on Heaven's Door will inevitably be the Christmas Number One. The Spice Girls have delayed the

can't argue with but a song that should never have been sung. Should the Spice Girls, those supposedly empowering foxes, themselves choose to make a charity record, I would like to suggest that they donate the proceeds to a far less popular cause - that of defending

release of their Christmas single

to make way for a cause you

women's rights to abortion.

The National Abortion Campaign has to do its necessary work on £30,000 a year. The Pro-Life Alliance, which plans to put forward 50 election candidates so that it is entitled to a party political broadcast, is clearly loaded.

If the Spice Girls stood up and told us what they wanted, what they really, really wanted, alongside ZigaZig AAh was a "woman's right to choose", they would not actually be saying anything terribly controversial.

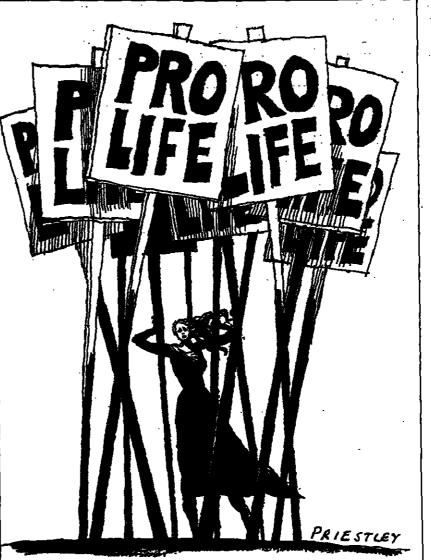
A Mori poll conducted last

September found that 80 per cent supported such a view. The combination of Nineties good-time girls and clumsy feminist sloganeering would be worth shelling out for. But I sus-pect that for all their frenetic girl power, The Spice Girls are likely to remain strangely silent on this issue.

They are in good company. Those who are pro-choice, of whatever political complexion, are on the defensive, yet instead of defending abortion, they merely refuse to talk about i falling back on the get-out of it being private and personal.

Abortion remains a key polit-ical issue, however, for it still represents the symbolic right of women to control their own bodies. This is why we have to have this argument time and again, and if we are not vigilant, we will have to have it on terms set by the anti-abortionists.

This is precisely what is happening at the moment. The pro-lifers" have been making the running. The arguments of American feminist Naomi Wolf. who, having recently given birth. wrote a piece in New Republic questioning the right to abortion, were immediately replayed here. Castigated as a heretic by some, Wolf's piece, though I disagree with much of it, remains a thoughtful contribution to the discussion.



Political and personal silence on abortion speaks volumes for how the new wave of pro-lifers have hijacked media attention

and the advances in genetics known how widely this procehave lead to impassioned but often ill-informed debates about frozen embryos and multiple births and selective termination culminating in the horrible championing of Mandy Allwood

accept a prize from Barbara Follet was presented as a miniheroine. Elizabeth Peacock (prolife and, incidentally, pro-hang-ing) gained a first reading for her bill designed to outlaw the pro-In this country, however, the complexities of IVF treatments abortion". She claimed it was not

dure is used in this country. Medical sources, however, estimate that this technique is used at most once a year here, if that. All these things are news

because the anti-abortionists are by the anti-abortionists.

The schoolgirl who refused to very clever at manipulating the media. By focusing on particular and sometimes harrowing cases, they have pushed the prolifers into arguing only on abstract principles, and as we well know, human interest is always more newsworthy than the discussion of liberal beliefs. The spectre of American-style

abortion politics is more mediasexy than the findings of opinion polls showing that most people

in danger of believing the pro-life propaganda that says any won by risking women's rights public figure who defends abortion is taking huge electoral risk? It seems that we are, and as we do so, pro-lifers are gaining ground.

Last month's Mori poll for Marie Stopes and The National And that Abortion Campaign received afraid of.

little coverage, perhaps that abortion is not an electoral issue - 72 per cent of both conservative and Labour supportstance on abortion would not alter the way they voted.

Why are politicians running scared? Just as women are made to feel ashamed for having abortions, so too are politicians ashamed of even raising the issue. It appears that Tony Blair has made it plain that he does not want abortion raised as an issue in the election. This is cowardice. We have had nearly 30 years of legal abortion in this country and this is supported by

both sexes.

Men as well as women need now more than ever to speak up. Instead of defending a far from perfect situation or being cowered by the new wave of pro-lif-ers, we should be considering what to do 30 years on from the 1967 Act. As 1997 is also the year of a general election, this looks unlikely, but we must take the initiative. The 1967 Act was concerned with protecting doctors as well as helping women. Thirty years on, we need an act to enshrine the principle of abortion on request for women in the first trimester. This is hardly radical - it is already the law in several European countries.

Abortion may be a private experience but it is a common enough one for most of us to have been through it or know someone close who has. Yet personal guilt translates into political silence. Nobody is triumphalist about abortion but it is a fact of life. Refusal to recognise this leads to private misery and public shame and the pretence that by not mentioning it, somehow we can get

By not talking positively about this hard-won right, we are con-demned to live in fear of those who would take it away. The quiet acceptance of women's rights in this area by the majority is misinterpreted as uncase. The politicians and the media are more concerned with the views of a few well-funded moral absolutists.

Now is the time for those who are pro-choice to make enough Why, then, are we frightened into silence on this issue? Are we at turning a deaf ear finally noise so that even those skilled and women's lives. If the politics of the anti-abortion lobby depend on fear fuelled by embarrassment and shame then surely nothing benefits them more than our silence. And that is what we should be

## Let's play hunt the famous

hey were laid out across the front page of Wed-nesday's Duily Mirror like stamps in an album or butterflies in a glass case, the "beautiful middle-aged celebrities" who between them had received more than 2,000 obscene letters over the past 12 years - Helen Mirren, Honor Blackman. Diana Rigg, Joanna Lumley, Virginia Bottomley, Nyree Dawn Porter. Alexander Bastedo and Britt Ekland, And one's first thought was "what taste! What a gift for

the designer!" And one's second thought was that he had done it, who-ever he was: he had achieved what he was after. Though identified only by the usual pervert and "sex fiend labels, his 12 years of hard graft had paid off. Until now, his affair with the most beautiful women in the country had been a murky secret known only to the women themselves and their families and agents.

Suddenly, the secret is out. the connection is public and can never be disclaimed. His existence and his effort are acknowledged. He has passed through the looking glass into

the land of celebrity.

Famous and distinguished people have always had their fans and camp followers and hangers-on; a small proportion of these have probably always been crazy, even homicidal, their helpless adoration curdled by rejection. But the celebrity stalkers of today are as distinctive a product of the age of television and tabloid newspapers as are the celebrities themselves.

The gulf between celebrities and their fans remains as wide as ever. But today, it seems unfair in a way it never used to be; unfair yet readily bridgeable by the truly desperate.

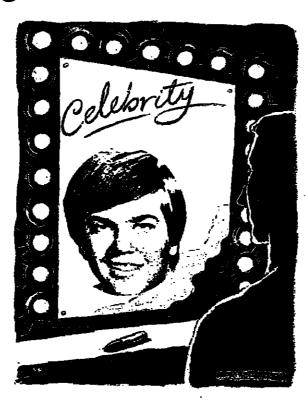
It seems unfair because the

glamourous were also heroic. on a morally superior plane to the rest of us, was jettisoned long ago. Hollywood gradually scaled down its epic stars to human proportions; television shrunk them to the size of puppets. You know these people in more intimate detail than anyone else, except your nearest and dearest. Yet they are oblivious to your existence. How wrong. How unfair. So the challenge is to overcome that ignorance, to make them know you and then make the world acknowledge the connection, too.

Stalking is not, however, an option arrived at by cold logic. The stalker must fall in love, or fancy himself in love: because unreciprocated love is the model, within normal, non-celeb human intercourse, of his non-relationship with the celebrity. And he must then strive to do the impossible - to make the loved one love him back. In this way, stalking becomes

a sinister mirror of the way celebrity affects ordinary people. A famous person such as Madonna or Michael Jackson is thrust on our attention day after day, week after week - we are helpless to resist or reject their advances, and only someone who's been living on Mars or under a rock could have missed the latest whatever. Now the stalker turns the tables on the loved one, besieging her with reminders of his exis-

tence and his feelings.
The process of stalking forces a relationship on the victim whether they want it or not, says Professor R J Badcock, a leading forensic psychiatrist. "It is impossible to get the stalker out of one's life. Carrying out stalking activities



Concluding his series on the nature of fame, Peter Popham examines the inner life of the stalker, who may easily become as famous as the object of attention

makes people feel immediately successful.

Stalkers range in the gravity of their behaviour from people who are merely a little sad and obsessive to psychotic killers; from people such as Bernard Quinn and Professor Klaus Wagner - respectable profes-sional people fallen on hard psychological times and sessed with Princesses Anne and Diana respectively - who make thorough nuisances of themselves but seem to pose no serious danger, to Robert Bardo, the man who shot the actress Rebecca Schaeffer dead with a single bullet when she answered the door of her Hollywood home.

But the man who epitomises the successful struggle of the stalker to clamber up to the glittering palace of celebrity through extreme acts is John W Hinckley, Ir (pictured). Hinckley was only one of

many young men who became infatuated with the actress Jodie Foster in the years that ver. It is said that she received 3,000 fan letters a month. But Hinckley was determined to matter to Jodie with the same intensity that Jodie mattered to him: be wanted the two of them to be linked in perpetuity. The actress was now a freshman at Yale, so Hinckley visited the campus, tried (and once or twice succeeded) to reach her by phone, slipped notes under the door of her room, and by dint of sheer persistence and menace finally he had "come to realize that I'm the topic of more than a little conversation, however full of ridicule it may be." He felt 'very good", he wrote, "that

know how I feel about you." But knowledge and acknowledgement were not enough and so Hinckley set off on the fatal trail that led to him to imitate the behaviour of Travis Bickle, the Robert de Niro char-

acter in Tax Driver, buying guns and shooting President Reagan. Hinckley is a schizophrenic, and at his trial was found not guilty by virtue of insanity. But his grasp of the significance of what he had achieved, expressed in a letter written after the trial to Stuart Taylor It of The New York Times, was

astonishingly lucid.

"Jodie Foster may continue to outwardly ignore me for the rest of my life but I have made an impression on that young lady that will never fade from her mind," he wrote. "I have made her one of the most famous actresses in the world. Everybody but everybody knows about John and Jodie. We are a historical couple whether Jodie likes it or not.

"At one time, Miss Foster was a star and I was an insignificant fan. Now everything is changed I am Napoleon and she is Josephine. I am Romeo and she is Juliet. I am John Hinckley Jr and she is Jodie Foster. The world can't touch us. Society can't bring us

It's totally crackers. But in terms of the way modern celebrity can be achieved. Hinckley's analysis is also staggeringly clear-sighted - Jodie Foster did indeed become far began to impinge on her aware- more famous after Hinckley's ness. Hanging out around her assassination attempt; her dome, he wrote in one note that name will always be shadowed by his. And by dint of bloodyminded determination, by dint of madness, Hinckley has placed himself among the



At Hincesti Orphanage filthy, starving children lie in rows waiting to die. Nearly 25% did last winter. Around 10,000 children are in

They get slops and sleep under threadbare blankets. They have n

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is working flat-out to get help through to the orphanages, starting with Hincesti. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope

 Q3: could buy emergency food supplements for two children to stop them dying from starvation. £58 could buy a medicine box containing antisoptic, antibiotics, vitamins, pain killers and life-caving drugs to belp treat five children.

• £250 could buy heaters, blankets, food supple and a medical pack to help save eight children.

Call 01273 299333 or cut	the coupon now
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# business & city

## National Power faces £200m pension repayment

**Chris Godsmark** Business Correspondent

National Power could be asked to repay more than £200m it re-moved from its employees' pension scheme in just one of a deluge of claims likely to hit the privatised electricity companies, following a landmark ruling from the Pensions Ombudsman.

A spokesman for the campaign representing pension fund members was last night writing to all the electricity companies to ask for surplus

cash taken out of the schemes for the employers' benefit to be replaced. The sum involved is thought to exceed £500m.

It also emerged yesterday that most electricity firms had taken surplus cash out of their pension funds, which are part of the main Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, twice, once after an actuarial valuation in 1992 and once in 1995.

The claim follows the provisional judgement by Dr Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, in a case brought by two National had decided to allocate 70 per cent of a £62.3m surplus to itself, some of which went to fund voluntary redundancy and early retirement payments. The other 30 per cent wen to enhance pensions benefits.

Dr Farrand said the Grid had isused the pension fund surplus, because the scheme's rules stated the surplus could not be paid to the employer.

The biggest bill could be

faced by National Power, which is thought to have used £176m

to fund early retirement payouts out of a £303m surplus in 1992. In the second pension fund valuation last year National Power had a surplus of £73.7m which it said at the time would be held in the scheme and later used to fund early retirement costs. National Power refused to comment yesterday.

Of the other companies facing huge bills, Nuclear Electric could have to repay £70m, while PowerGen could have to find £59.4m. In all cases the companies would have to pay in-

terest on top at 8 per cent a year.
Peter Woods, from solicitors Stephens Innocent, which represented the National Grid pensioners, said: "The impact of this will be borrendous for the companies. I don't know how much money these guys have got, but this judgement must have an impact on their balance

Jack Taylor, a director of the Association of Electricity Sup-ply Pensioners, said he would ask trustees of all the funds involved to apply to the High

Court to establish whether the judgement applied to them. In any case the companies are likely to take the matter to court if Dr Farrand confirms his findings when he publishes his final judgement in the National Grid case in three weeks.

The campaigners have also been fighting to remove varia-tions in benefits offered by different schemes since the industry was split up after privatisation. Mr Taylor, a former marketing director of the Electricity Council, said any surpluses returned by the compa-nies should be used for this pur-

He said: "We were all in the same scheme before privatisation but when it later came to sharing out these surpluses some got benefits and others didn't. If they put the money back which they've taken out they should use it to restore equity for the pensioners."

A spokesman for the scheme said the ruling was being scru-tmised but decimed to comment

#### Bank to push for another interest rate rise

Yvette Cooper

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, yesterday gave another veiled warning that the Trensury remained too complacent about the chances of rising inflation in the next couple of years. He indicated that the Bank would soon push for a further increase in interest rates. Giving evidence to the House of Commons Treasury Select

Committee about last week's Budget, the Governor said: The Treasury's assumptions are more optimistic than the Bank's forecasts." Mr George reiterated the Bank's view that inflation would start to rise late next year and early 1998, in contrast to the Treasury's Red Book forecast that inflation would stay at 2.5 per cent or below for the next three years.

Signalling the Bank's inten-tion to push for an interest rate increase in the near future, he said: "Some further rate rise will be required at some point in order to give us a better than even chance of achieving the inflation target." The Government's target for inflation is 2.5 per cent or below by the General Election and beyond.

However, the Governor dampened speculation that the economy was on the brink of dangerously overheating. Asked by Select Committee members whether the economy was heading for a 1980s-style economic boom, he replied: "No – not an Eighties-type boom. That's talk ing about intensity.'

Meanwhile new evidence on retail sales and car sales added support to the view that inflationary pressures had not yet taken off. The Society of Motor Manufacturers reported that new car registrations in November this year fell 5.4 per cent compared to November last year, from 143.055 to 135,342.

The Confederation of British Industry's monthly survey of Distributive Trades showed that sales and prices rose less fast in November than in October. The Distributive Trades survey takes evidence from retailers the balance between the number of companies giving positive answers and the number giving negative answers. The balance of firms reporting increased sales compared to a year ago fell from 55 per cent in October to 48 per cent in November.

Alistair Eperon, chairman of the CBI's Distributive Trades panel said: "Based on the evidence of the survey, interest rates should remain on hold."



**Business Correspondent** 

British Gas directors yesterday attempted to put past disasters behind them as they brought forward plans to split the company in two, and revealed the first successful renegotiation of part of the company's £40bn worth of takeor-pay contracts with North Sea oil and gas producers.

Describing the news as "a defining event in the history of British Gas", Richard Giordano, chairman, said the demerger of British Gas's supply business would now take place on 17 February, two months ear-

lier than originally planned. Shareholders, including more than 1.5 million small investors, or Sids, will vote at an extraordinary general meeting on 12 February, just over 10 years after the group's landmark privatisation. The new company, which will supply 20 million domestic customers and run the huge Morecambe Bay gas field, is to be called Centrica, though it will continue to use the British Gas name for its residential supply business. Shareholders will get one Centrica share for every British Gas share they hold.

Directors of the new business, ecutive, said they chose the name from a shortlist of three because it was modern and dynamic. The remainder of British Gas will be renamed BG PLC and will run the pipeline network and all other gas exploration and production business, apart from the Morecambe Bay gas field.

One surprise was that Dame Stella Rimington, the former MI5, would join the board as a non-executive director. This follows her appointment last week to the board of Marks & Spencer as a non-executive di-

The first completed take-orpay contract renegotiation is with the oil giant BP. It also involves internal contracts to buy gas which British Gas has with its own subsidiaries. It will cost the company £293m in compensation payments which will hit the next quarter's profits.

Mr Giordano would not say

how much of the cash would go to BP, though it is thought to be more than half. He said the deal represented about 10 per cent of the contracts which the company "wanted to do something about". It is thought that another one or two big renegotiations will come in the next couple of months, probably involving either Shell or Esso. British Gas did not discount the possibility that these rary involve an oil producer being given some of the assets of the Morecambe field.

Only a week ago British Gas



Dame Stella Rimington: Will head of the security service be a non-executive director

which involves the company paying around 20p a therm for its gas, a third more than the market rate, had cost the company £294 in three months. Under the renegotiated deal, contracts to buy 2.8 billion

be fixed at a lower price. Both companies face severe challenges after the demerger takes place. Centrica must restore customers' faith in its service standards after having to spend £80m this year to combat problems with its billing and

therms of gas will be terminated, while 13.5 billion therms will

telephone inquiry systems. It will also have to fight to retain its share of the domestic market when it is opened to full competition in 1998. Mr Gardner said he was looking at forming alliances with other firms to mount an assault on the electricity market after full domestic competition in two years'

The other business, BG, will take over the fight with the industry regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, over her proposals for stiff price controls on its pipeline charges. The issue is being investigated by the Monopolies

and Mergers Commission. If BG loses, it could reduce as £400m, which would mean investors would be unlikely to be paid any dividend for several vears. În addition Centrica shares, which analysts expect to trade at between 30p and 60p. will not pay a dividend for the immediate future.

However British Gas forecast it would pay a final dividend for the second half of the year of 8.1p, the same as last year.



## Ex-Barings executive loses claim for £500,000 bonus

Louise Jury and Jill Treanor

Mary Walz, the former Barings executive, has lost her claim for that was awarded just hours before the bank's coliapse last year

but was never paid. An industrial tribunal at Stratford, east London, ruled yesterday that Ms Walz had no contractual or non-contractual rights to the money.

Ms Walz, 36, an American living in London, claimed she was praised as "a star" by Andrew Tuckey, the former deputy Comment, page 25 | chairman of Barings, when he lapsed the next day, there was

handed her a slip of paper con-firming the bonus in February on profit-sharing pool from which she could be paid. 1995. Just 13 hours later, the dealings of Nick Leeson, the rogue trader, brought down

Ms Walz said previous bonus-

es had never been linked to the bank's profits. But ING, the Dutch financial services giant which rescued Barings in March 1995, argued she was one of the senior managers responsible for Leeson, who is serving sixand-a-half years in a Singapore jail for his illegal trading. It said the agreement was informal and since the bank colMs Walz said yesterday she

and her lawyers had believed

her meeting with Mr Tuckey in בון כעעו עומוחסים to more than just a casual indication of my compensation". But she said: "I put the question before the tribunal for the obvious purpose of seeking its independent review and to attempt to isolate what was strictly an employment issue from the complexities of the tragedy of the collapse of Barings.'

"Having put the question to the tribunal, I now accept and respect its decision," she said.

ING Barings declined to com-ment yesterday. However, one banking source expressed relief at the decision. "It says encouraging things about acus who thought it was a cheeky thing to do," one banker said. Ms Walz is also bartling to clear her name with the Securities and Futures Authority, the

City regulator which has brought charges against her in connection with the collapse of the bank. In addition, many former Barings executives, in-cluding Ms Walz, are being sued by Coopers & Lybrand, the

£1b

## Brent Walker finance man convicted

Banking Correspondent

A former finance director of Goldcrest, once the film-making subsidiary of Brent Walker, was convicted yesterday of attempting to pervert the course of justice by organising a wide ranging cover up of the Brent Walker

Donald Anderson, 43, created false documents between August 1988 and October 1990 to cover up £19m of bogus profits reported by Brent Walker be-tween 1984 and 1987, the prosecution said. He was also involved in the laundering of £19.5m through the Bahamas and the Isle of Man.

Anderson was remanded in custody last night to await sentencing, possibly today. Anderson, a New Zealander,

fled the country during the course of interviews with the

and did not return until last November.

Warrants for his arrest were issued in January and March 1993 and he should have been a defendant in the first Brent Walker trial in 1994 in which George Walker, the leisure firm's founder, was acquitted of In the first trial the SFO se-

cured the conviction of Wilfred Aquilina, Brent Walker's former

Two directors of the firm that administered Queens Moat Houses' share register were sentenced yesterday to 120 hours of community service, after being convicted of insider dealing in the company's shares, writes Jill Treanor.

They were also ordered to pay £7,500 to the Department of Trade and Industry in costs. Geoffrey Atkinson and John Hawksby, former employee directors of White Rose Registrars of Kettering, were found guilty at Middlesex Crown Count on 1 November of three offences of insider dealing under the Company Securi-

2909.91 2253.36 1.61†

Source: FT Information

Serious Fraud Office in 1992 finance director, on one count of supplying false information

Aquilina was fined £25,000 and given an 18-month suspended prison sentence. John Ouested, the former managing director, pleaded guilty to misleading the SFO and was given a nine-month suspended sentence and a £30,000 fine. Allegations about the ac-

counting policy within Brent Walker's film division first sur-

faced in The Independent in August 1988.

Brent Walker had hoped that success in the film division would fuel the group's growth. But worries about the division's accounts stopped the group being able to raise money through a rights issue and it had to rely heavily on borrowings, which the group is still repaying. The SFO's case rested on the

assumption that Brent Walker had funded its profits itself. It

ties (Insider Dealing) Act 1985. White Rose Registrars was the Kettering firm which at that time kept QMH's share register. The two men dealt in the shares after acquiring unpublished, price-sensitive information about instructions sent by QMH's finance director relating to the payment of dividend warrants, just before QMH was brought to its knees in 1993 by £1hn of debt. The DTI confirmed yesterday it would not retry Douglas Swinden, a former director of Eastern

Electricity, on insider dealing charges, after a jury

failed to agree a verdict earlier this week.

gave the impression that it was making sales to third parties. which, in reality, were part of the Brent Walker group. This created the illusion of profit.
The SFO claimed last night

that Anderson was paid by Brent Walker for covering up the fraud. On at least three occasions he collected bearer bonds and cash totalling £750,000 from Geneva which had been laundered through the Bahamas and Liechtenstein. "It is ... a sad case that a man

with obvious intelligence should have so misused his talents out of financial greed and personal ambition." Peter Rook, QC, prosecuting for the

SFO said during the trial. Anderson had confessed to Freddie Fisher III, a director at Goldcrest, who become a key prosecution witness. The trial, at Southwark Crown

Court, opened on 2 October.

#### Hanson spends £150m on splitting business into four

Magnus Grimond

Hanson yesterday revealed that the bill for splitting the industrial conglomerate into four parts would amount to £150m, but said the cost had fallen from an estimate made in August. Listing documents sent out in the summer with details of the demerger of Imperial Tobacco and Millennium Chemicals gave an expected figure of £95m for the four-way split.

Yesterday, the group said the total cost would be £150m. of which £78m related to fees and other charges relating to the transfer of bonds to the new companies. Christopher Collins, executive vice chairman, said the £72m which directly related to the demerger was lower than the original estimate. Hanson said

₩ D

professional fees accounted for posal programme announced a around a third of that figure. Imperial Tobacco yesterday revealed that the cost of its

demerger had been £7m. The news came as Hanson announced record profits of £1.81m for its last year before the break-up. Lord Hanson has announced his intention to step down as chairman next year. He described the share price performance over the past year as very disappointing.

The figures were boosted from a prior year figure of £1.23bn by £633m of gains on the conglomerate's £2.1bn dis-

year ago, which the chief exec-urive, Derek Bonham, said had exceeded expectations in half

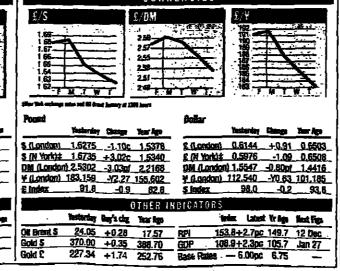
the expected time. There was also a £193m release of provisions from a charge set up to pay clean-up costs of chemically contaminated land in the US following its acquisition of the Beazer building and aggregates group in 1991. Hanson said the cut in provisions came after it had established better remediation

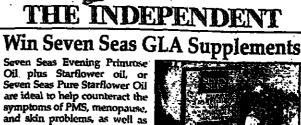
procedures. Investment column and Imperial results page 26

#### STOCK MARKETS Day's chance Change (%) 1986 Figs +6.00 \_\_<u>+</u>0.1 4073,10 FTSE 350 +3.64 20943.90 +283.99 13491.56 +57.32 +0.4

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To move from declaring the National Grid case a misuse of funds to saying that companies should not be allowed to take surpluses would, however,

be a mistake'

## Above-board ways to tap company pensions

fund assets but there has always been a perfectly legal way for companies to get their hands on their pensioners' money. This is to get the actuaries to declare that there's more money in the fund than is required to meet expected liabilities, and then simply swipe the surplus, or at least take a prolonged holiday from contributions. For obvious reasons this has always been contentious but it hasn't stopped companies doing it with abandon. Now along comes the Pensions Ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, to say that in at least one case, that of the National Grid, this should not have happened.

A number of the other privatised utilities are in exactly the same position, so Dr Farrand's adjudication plainly has quite far reaching implications. All the same, this is a bit of a special case. The terms of the scheme specifically disallowed the use of any surplus for the employer's benefit. So what the Grid did was to use its share of the surplus for the benefit of employees - or rather, to pay early retirement and other benefits to those it was making redundant. Since these were costs which the Grid would otherwise have had to meet from its own resources, the Ombudsman has rightly declared this a misuse of funds.

To move from declaring this particular case a misuse of funds, to saying that companies should not be allowed to take

Tricky things, pensions. The Maxwells surpluses, point, would, however, be a mis-nearly went to jail for misusing pension take. Most occupational pension schemes take. Most occupational pension schemes are not the sole property of the employees, though it is easy to see why they should think this. Typically, the employer will enter into an open-ended liability to meet promised benefits. That, in turn, obviously gives him certain rights of ownership. Certainly there should be a quid pro quo entitlement to any

surplus in the fund. Occupational pension schemes are a dying industry with most companies keen to move their employees on to straight money purchase personal pensions. But there's a long tail to be worked out before companies finally shrug off their pensions inheritance. Judging by this case and others like it, there's plenty to keep the lawyers occu-

#### How low inflation can compound errors

Here is what looks at first sight like a Straightforward GCSE question; if you buy a computer with 500 megabytes of hard disk memory for 20 per cent more than you paid a year ago for an old older machine with 100 megabytes, what is the rate of computer price inflation? In the hands of economists, nowever, such questions have been turned into a whole new and highly contentious area of academic study.

Cable & Wireless has named Robert Lerwill as its new fi-nance director. He succeeds

Rod Olsen who was promoted

to deputy chief executive in July.

Mr Lerwill, 44, is currently fi-

nance director of WPP, the ad-

vertising group which controls Ogilvy & Mather and J Walter

Thompson agencies.

Mr Lerwill joined the WPP

main board in 1986 and in ad-

dition to his finance responsi-

bilities was also closely involved

Boskyn claimed that US inflation has been overstated by about 1.1 per cent a year as a result of such improvements in quality. In the UK, the Bank of England has estimated the overstatement at between 0.35 and 0.8 per cent. Roger Bootle of HSBC says most economists come up with figures around ?

Meanwhile, the Office of National Statistics, with typical statisticians caution, believes it is probable, though not certain that there is some overstatement built into the RPI, but thinks it is nowhere near the top of the Bank's range.

The main measurement difficulties are that there is a continual improvement in the quality of goods and services, consumers are becoming increasingly sophisticated in chasing special offers and they are also prone to substitute one product for another when the price changes. The ONS is in the middle of a big project to refine collection and measurement, which may include allowances for quality improvements in products such as cars, computers and audiovisual equipment.

The debate is of more than academic interest, however. Any overstatement hardly mattered when inflation was 10 per cent, but when it is around 2.5 per cent a small error looms large. If inflation has been overstated, it also means that economic growth has been consistently understated, because too large an amount has been deducted from the

national product when adjustments are by a sensible choice of non-executive made for prices. Furthermore, indexing of tax and benefit is also profoundly affected by any adjustment to the inflation measure. There is thus a powerful incentive to the Treasury to eliminate any upward bias in the

#### New name, same old problems at British Gas

British Gas will be hoping that a new name marks a new beginning, but for Sid the misery goes on and on. Investors were given a lot to take yesterday with a whole string of announcements, not least the new name for the supply business, "Centrica". Directors say this was easily the best of three possible choices by the leading marketing consultancy, Interbrand, which was paid £250,000 for its services. In truth, Centrica is no worse than any of the other recent rebranding exercises. Who thought much of the name "Zeneca" when ICI unveiled it a few years ago? "Concert", the new name for British Telecom, hardly sets the pulse rac-

ing either. But behind the new facade, the same old problems remain. Centrica's first task is to restore public confidence in service standards as well as attempt to field the onset of competition in its core domestic supply business. The new board, assisted

directors such as WH Smith head Bill Cockburn, will undoubtedly work like mad to keep the company's market share above 50 per cent. Even so, Centrica shareholders will have to wait a very long

time for their first dividend.
Which leaves "BG Plc", the pipeline operation entangled in a bitter row with Ofgas over pipeline charges. If it loses in the Monopolies Commission lottery, then the company claims it would wipe £400m off after tax profits. Last year it only made £391m after tax, so Sid can kiss goodbye to much of a dividend there as well. Even if BG comes off better than expected, the dividend

is still going to be cut. So it was no surprise that yet again yesterday British Gas was playing down any possibility that the demerger will realise additional value for shareholders in the near future. Who knows? British Gas's screams of pain may be little more than bluff, the case as presented for consumption by the MMC. Perhaps there are huge hidden costs which can be cut out, unlocking real value for shareholders. Then again, ook what happened the last time British Gas slashed staff numbers; too many people left and service standards suffered. The shares may look oversold for the moment. but Sid is going to have to wait quite a while to see them return to anywhere near their

## Grand Met plans £1bn buy-back

**Patrick Tooher** 

The list of companies looking to return cash to investors grew further yesterday when Grand Metropolitan, the Burger King to Haagen-Dazs food and drinks group, said it was considering plans to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

Share buy-backs are on the agenda, though they have not yet been approved by the board," said Gerald Corbett, Grand Met's finance director. Mr Corbett said no decision on

the timing of the buy-back had yet been taken, though Grand Met plans to seek shareholder approval for the scheme at its next annual meeting in March. Analysts said falling debt

levels could mean up to £1bn would be available for distribution to shareholders in 1998 once complicated tax considerations had been ironed out. In the year September 1996 net borrowings fell by £633m to £2.7bn. representing almost three-quarters of shareholders' funds.

It is highly unusual for a company with such high gearing levels to consider a share buy-back. But Mr Corbett insisted Grand Met's financial po- ter Grand Met posted a 6 per



Looking to return cash: Chairman George Bull

sition was strong, with operating profits covering the £190m annual interest bill a comfortable six times.

News of the plans came as Grand Met drew a line under its acquisitive past. Dismissing speculation that GrandMet was poised to swoop for Guinness or even Dutch group BolsWessanen, recently appointed chief executive John McGrath said: "We are not looking for big ac-

quisitions, whether it is a drinks business or a food business." Mr McGrath was speaking af-

cent rise in full year pre-ex-ceptional profits to £965m, in line with market estimates.

But the shares closed 10.5p lower at 446p as analysts scaled back their 1997 forecasts by £50m to around £1bn to take account of sterling's recent strength against the dollar. Some 70 per cent of Grand Met's profits are denominated in the US currency.

The figures included good performances from Pilisbury, the US baked goods business, and the IDV spirits division, but Burger King was hit by the BSE scare in Britain and Germany, costing Grand Met around £10m in lost profits.

Overall, profits from the Burger King operations, excluding refranchising profits -were flat at £165m.

At the pre-tax level, profits fell by 58 per cent to £388m following a £550m exceptional charge taken on the sale of Pearle, the US eye-care specialist, and some of its European food business

Yesterday Grand Met also announced the sale of its Hoffman Menu food group to a German management team for £50m. Investment Column, page 26

#### C&W appoints finance chief

in acquisitions and investor re-

Cable & Wireless chief executive Richard Brown said: "I am delighted Robert is joining us. His recognised experience in international financing will be

an obvious asset to us. Lerwill was involved with two in-

ternational refinancings in- He was previously deputy fivolving up to 35 banks each time. He worked for accountants Arthur Anderson for 10 years, including spells in South

In his place WPP has In his 10 years at WPP Mr promoted Paul Richardson to the finance director position.

Africa, Russia and the Middle

nance director and group

treasurer Mr Richardson, who is 39, ioined WPP three years ago as group treasurer after six years with Hanson. He was previously with Beecham Group.

Cable & Wireless also announced yesterday that its Mer-

cury Communications subsidiary had reached an agreement with BT over number portability. Customers who want to connect directly to the Mercury network will soon be able to do so without having to change their teleohone number

Mercury will introduce single line geographic number portability early next month for customers in Northern Ireland. It will be rolled out nationally dur-

### **Hughes to auction defence** and aerospace divisions

**David Usborne** 

Hughes Electronics, founded by the legendary eccentric Howard Hughes and now part of General Motors, may shed its heritage as America's one-time leader in defence innovation by auctioning its military systems and aerospace divisions for a price that could

reach \$8bn (£5bn). Such a sale would give fresh impetus to the consolidation process that has transformed the defence industry in the US since the end of the Cold War. Companies seen as the most likely bidders for the Hughes businesses include McDonnell Douglas, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon.

Michael Armstrong, chair-

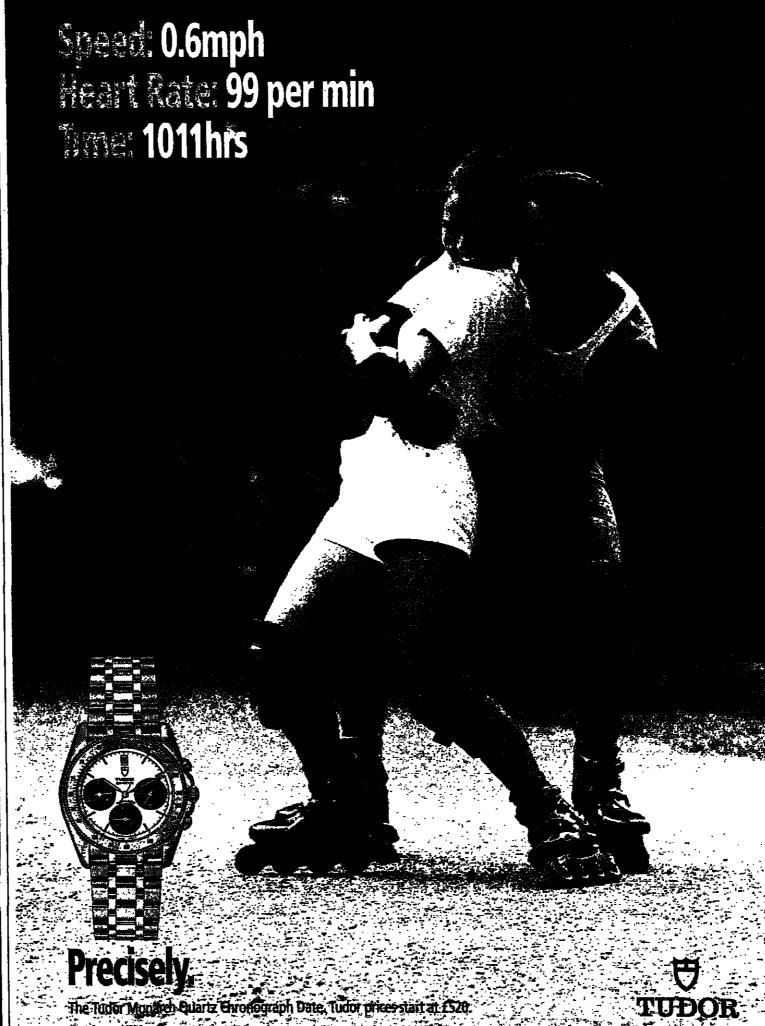
yesterday to have decided to seek buyers for the units to allow his company to concentrate on its expanding telecommunications satellite division. The move would also fit GM's desire to prune its peripheral businesses and get back to its car-making roots. There was no comment yesterday from either Hughes or GML

A possible obstacle to any major divestiture are the tax implications. Hughes could be persuaded to abandon any auction if the tax burden promised to be too heavy and could not be avoided by way of some taxfree stock transaction.

The loss of the defence and aerospace units would radically alter the character of Hughes, which was founded by Mr Hughman of Hughes, was reported es in a hangar in California be-

lic mind it remains famous as the company that invented miracle military technologies ranging from the world's first laser to night-sight infra-red targeting systems. It also produced the landing modules for Nasa's moon programme. At its peak in the mid-1980s, Hughes had a worldwide payroll of 82,000.

The company has recently had its shares of woes, however, culminating in its failure to land a contract with the Pentagon for a missile-satellite system that was won instead by Lock-heed Martin. Its expansion in the satellite field was marked by its purchase of PanamSat for \$3bn. Neither Boeing, which is overstretched meeting jet or-ders, nor Lockheed Martin are considered likely suitors.



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## Food groups sustain Grand Met

Eighties it was a trendy conglomerate, paying top dollar for just about anything that moved, even if it did get out of hotels at the top of the cycle.

When recession struck, and the

virtues of focus on core activities suddenly became apparent, Grand Met ze-roed in on branded food and drinks at the expense of a costly exit from pe-

But under Lord Sheppard the deals just kept on flowing and one of his last acts was to pay £1.80n for Pet Inc, the branded US foods group, just over a

year ago. All this wheeler-dealing, while supposedly delivering enhanced earnings in year one, brought next to no benefit to shareholders. Amazingly, for almost a decade, the return on the group's £10bn of total capital has been below its average weighted cost of capital. Which makes you wonder what, in investment terms, is the point of Grand Met at all?

Clearly the new management team under John McGrath has been grappling with this question and is trying to draw a line under the past by using the language of the present.

The latest wheeze is a share buy-back plan – an obvious move for cash-rich companies but less clearly beneficial for Grand Met, which boasts gearing of 74

per cent and net borrowings of £2.7bn.
The idea is not so off-the-wall as it might seem. Grand Met's debt is far cheaper than its cost of equity, so reducing the number of shares in issue makes sense. Equally, the £190m in-terest bill is comfortably covered over six times by operating profit. But investors should not hold their breath as knotty advance corporation tax problems mean the buy-back is unlikely to see the light of day until 1998.

In the meantime, they can console themselves with good performances from the group's two main profit centres - Pillsbury food and IDV drinks - though operating profits at Burger King fell from £196m to £167m, due in part to a £10m hit caused by difficult trading in the UK and Germany caused by the BSE crisis.

At the pre-tax level, profits were reduced by 58 per cent to £388m after a £550m exceptional charge arising from the sale of the Pearle eye-care chain in the US and some European food businesses. More disposals in the latter category will follow as Grand Met concentrates on four international brands - Haagen-Dazs ice cream, Pillsbury baked goods, Green Giant vegetables and El Paso Mexican food. Analysts reduced their pre-tax fore-

#### Grand Metropolitan has always been a follower of fashion. In the late THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

Grand Metropolitan: at a glance

Market value: 29.32bn, strare orice 4460

casts by about £50m to £1bn to take account of sterling's recent strength against the dollar. That outs the shares. down 10.5p at 446p, on a market mul-tiple of just over 14. High enough.

#### **New Hanson** lacks focus

Lord Hanson is doing his best to bow out of the corporate battleground in a blaze of glory. Having paid £300m for "bolt-on" acquisitions in the past two years, raised £2.1bn from disposals in the past year and announced the division of his empire into four separately quoted companies, the impression is of a whirlwind of activity at his eponymously named conglomerate.

Sadly the City has remained unimpressed and the shares have underperformed the rest of the market by more than 40 per cent since the demerger was announced in January, despite yesterday's 0.5p uptick to 80.25p.

Trading record

Dividends per share (pence)

Operating profit by region

- Rest of World £79m (7%)

\* pre-exceptional figure

Hanson proudly proclaimed record profits of £1.81m in its last year as an undivided conglomerate. The figures

are now largely irrelevant, given the de-merger on the last day of the year of the new Millennium Chemicals and Imperial Tobacco groups and the forth-coming split from the energy operations in January. Even so, they give an insight into the problems facing the group. Strip away exceptionals, principally the massive £633m profits from disposals and a £193m release of provisions for contaminated land in the US, and Hanson's operating profits, at £1.53m, are flat as a pancake.

"New Hanson" must be seen as a

much more focused group, with leading positions in aggregates, ready-mixed concrete, bricks, cranes and electrical products in the UK and the US. Once the remaining debt of around £1.4bn has been unloaded on to the new Energy Group, new Hanson will also be financially strong, with gearing of around 25 per cent.

It is also well managed, doing well to hold onto profits of £231m last year, The latest pronouncement shows that the experts were right to be cynical, as down just £6m despite difficult conditions in the UK. Brick prices fell just

3 per cent, while aggregates demand fell to levels not seen since the 1970s. The strong performance from the US and Grove cranes should continue.

Analysts are putting a fair value of around 88p on the remaining Hanson entity, after a conglomerates discount. with new Hanson worth upwards of 38p. Even if a bid does not emerge for Energy, the shares should be held at

#### **London Clubs** deals a dud

Casino group London Clubs Interna-tional has turned in such a jackpotwinning performance since its flotation in May 1994 that yesterday's downbeat announcement represents the group's

Having trebled in two and a half years, the shares retreated 8.5p to 316p following flat half-year profits of £20m

and a gloomy trading statement.
What dented confidence was news that in October and November the percentage of bets retained had been disappointing at upmarket casinos, including The Ritz and Les Ambassadeurs in the capital. The high level of sterling may be one factor keeping

high-rolling overseas gamblers away. But in a sense London Clubs is a victim of its past success, as the top clubs have seen spectacular gains in the past two years. The luxury end of the market's unpredictability is the reason London Clubs has been reducing its dependence on this sector. A year ago the upmarket clubs accounted for 69 per cent of profits. Now the figure is 52 per cent, with the balance coming from middle and lower market casinos

London Clubs is also expanding its overseas interests to balance the portfolio. It already has an Egyptian operation and this week it opened the refurbished Casino du Liban in Beirut, a project which is tipped for great things despite its unpropitious surroundings.

There will be further opportunities in the UK as a result of the deregulation proposals working their way through Government channels. Possible relaxations include an increase in the number of gaming machines and 13 new permitted areas for casinos.

The proposed relocation of the Ritz casino to larger premises should also increase returns and the group has recently agreed lease terms for new premises for its Rendezvous club.

Flat full-year profits of around £33m would put the shares on a forward rat-

## Imperial warns on 'punitive' duty rises.

Magnus Grimond

Imperial Tobacco, Britain's second-biggest cigarette group, warned yesterday that recent continue to hit the UK market and boost smuggling.
Gareth Davis, chief executive

of the group, said already 60 per cent of UK demand for handrolling tobacco is supplied through re-exports from the Continent. Sales by Imperial, recently demerged as an independent company from the Hanson conglomerate, along with market leaders Gallaber to European countries like Belgitm were immediately being turned round and returned to the UK because of the big tax differential involved, he said. Indeed, he claimed that the third-

Mr Davis warned that one of the more serious effects of the decision by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to put another 15p duty on a packet of ciga-rettes would be to give further

encouragement of trade. Currently smuggling inci-pally hand-rolling tob.

Meanwhile, as to as that the home market a consider would face another 2012 ver cent decline, similar to last ,: as a result of the duty incre es and prompt smokers "down trade" to cheaper brand. Despite the adverse back-

ground. Imperial reported a 5.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £366m in the year to September, its first as an independent entity since being acquired by Hanson 10 years agu. The profits, which were struck on sales raised 7 per cent to £3.82bn, were described by Mr.

Davis as "a good achievement in

the context of the total market". largest brand in the UK is being sold illegally as the Dutch own-The shares have been pulled in different directions by bid speculation on the one hand and a law ers do not own the brand name. suit brought by lung cancer suf-ferers on the other since they floated at around 375p in October. Yesterday, they gained 4.5p to 373.5p, although the company was silent on any bid approaches.

Imperial said market share rose from 37.1 to 38.2 per cent in the period, just behind Gallaber on around 39 per cent. Mr Davis said it was the xixth successive year that they had grown profits and market share.

The group now claims three of Britain's top five selling brands in Lambert & Butler, Regal and Superkings. Lambert & Butler had particularly benefited from the move down market by smokers, Mr Davis said, and now accounts for over 11 per cent of the market.

Profits from overseus, an area carmarked for expansion, ruse 55 per cent to £70m and now represented 19 per cent of the total, just 5 percentage points below the company's target level for the end of the decade. Volumes grew in both Europe and the Far East.

Mr Davis shrugged off the likely effects of the impending flotation of Gallaher and re-iterated his confidence that the company had good defences against the ground-breaking legal action brought by 12 cancer sufferers last month.

## Shareholders reject proposal to break up Greycoat's assets

Patrick Tooher

Shareholders in Greycoat yesterday rejected a resolution calling for the sale of all the embattled property company's as-

The break-up proposal, which had been put forward by UK Active Value, a fund which speaks for 10.6 per cent of Greycoat, was defeated by 68.4 million votes to 3.6 million.

"This result shows an overwhelming majority against UKAV's proposal," said Michael Beckett, Greycoat's chairman. 'We can now get back to work without this costly distraction." Mr Beckett claimed "95 per

ment and its strategy", even

revealed that east of holding the EGM and its adjournment was cent support for our manageabout £300,000, equivalent to a

though shareholders owning idend. "Even more significant-54.8 per cent of Greycoat's equity voted against the resolution. with 2.9 per cent in favour. UKAV did not vote on the

proposal and Brian Myerson. who runs the fund, did not attend the meeting. Mr Myerson had already indicated he would abstain in the vote after reaching a deal

with Greycoat's management to sell one of its trophy properties. Embankment Place in central London. Greycoat claims the sale of the building has been planned for many months. Before the vote Mr Beckett

20 per cent increase in the div-

ly it has been an enormous and costly diversion of manage-ment time and effort," he said. Despite yesterday's vote. Greyeout's future remains un-

certain. Last mouth Moorfield Estates, a rival property group about a quarter of Greecost's size by market capitalisation, tabled oposals for a £214m takenver hid which Greycout is resisting.

Moorfield wants to demerge two of Greycoat's biggest investment properties - Embankment Place and 123 Buckingham Palace Road, also in central London - into a

company with a separate listing. Last month Greveral rejected outline proposals sent by Moorfield.

#### IN BRIEF

 Northern Ireland Electricity said buoyant economic growth in the Province accounted for a 9 per cent growth in profits to £52m, and a rise in turnover of 11 per cent for the six months to September. The dividend was raised 10 per cent to 5.5p. David Jefferies, chairman, warned that a recommendation on pricing

 Mercury Communications, Cable & Wireless' UK subsidiary, said it was the first national operator to reach agreement with BT over number portability. Customers who want to connect directly to the Mercury network will soon be able to do so without having to change their telephone number. Mercury said: "Number portability will liberate customers and enable them to move to whichever company offers the best service for them."

• Premiership football club Aston Villa intends to float on the London stock market, joining other clubs such as Manchester United which have prospered from a listing. Shares in Aston Villa, headed by Doug Ellis, are traded privately at £560, valuing the club at £50m. The Birmingham club is inviting City banks to tender for advising on the float. It is thought Mr Ellis is keen to reduce his holding in the club, which he has invested in for some time.

 Ransomes, the Ipswich-based grass cutting equipment group. warned that the strength of sterling may hit its overseas profits, while its consumer business was not recovering as quickly as expected. The company, which has been undergoing a corporate revival led by its chief executive. Peter Wilson, said profits had jumped from £9.22m to £12.8m in the year to September. Profits in the consumer side slumped from £483,000 to £100,000. After paying its first interim dividend for five years in 1996, a 0.75p final takes the annual total to 1.25p.

 Hodder Headline, the publishing group, has appointed Christopher Weston chairman. Mr Weston is currently chairman and chief executive of Phillips, Son and Neale, the auctioneers. He replaces Lord Donoughmore, the father of chief executive Tim Hely Hutchinson, who is retiring.

• Alvis, the defence to optics group, said it had "substantially reduced" losses at its transmissions business as it announced a 50 per cent increase in the dividend yesterday. The chairman, Nick Prest, said both the order book and the balance sheet were strong and the management team improved. Even so, pre-tax profits just edged ahead from £8,74m to £8.88m in the year to September. A final dividend of 2p makes 3p for the year, up from 2p.

• Denby, the pottery-ware group, said overseas sales had risen by around 60 per cent for the second year running and now accounted for 40 per cent of the total. The company said it was "taking appropriate measures" to limit the impact of sterling's recent strength.

Pre-tax profits jumped 28 per cent to £6.08m in the year to September and the company said its leading market position left it well placed to benefit from any upturn in UK consumer spending.

 Philip Harris, a maker of laboratory equipment and pharmaceutical products, expects a strong performance for its full year.
 Reporting interim profits to September hoisted 45 per cent to £1.7m, the group said the second half would be busy with deliveries in fulfilment of contracts with J Sainsbury and for an Indonesian project. The half-way dividend rises 22 per cent to 3p.

## Drop in asset value mars MEPC results

92 93

Share price peace

500

MEPC, the property group, yesterday announced a 14 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £140m but said that write-down on a Los Angeles shopping mall had reduced its net asset value from 457p to 450p per share.

Investors were disappointed by the fall in the net asset value, resulting in a 12p drop in MEPC's share prices to 440.5p. James Tuckey, chief execu-tive, said: "We feel very confident about the whole of the

profit statement. The only slight isappointment is on the net asset value side." Earnings per share rose 9 per cent to 22.9p and the total dividend was held Mr Tuckey said the drop in the net asset value reflected a

marginal fall in values both in the UK and elsewhere. However, he added: "We feel that the performance of our UK portfolio, which accounts for 70 per cent of the group, is indeed where we would have expected it to be. He said the valuation date for

the portfolio was 31 August and there had been more activity and evidence of an improved market since then. "If we redid the valuation for 1 December. we would probably get a different answer.

The other factor which had brought the net asset value down was the £31m write-down on the valuation of Northridge Mall in Los Angeles. The writedown is equivalent to 7.5p per

"We are convinced this is a temporary write-down because the centre is still getting back on its feet after the earthquake

"We are quite confident we will get that value back in the next two to three years as the centre re-establishes itself," Mr Tuckey said.

He defended MEPC's decision to give a target net asset value of 690p per share for 2001. "We're sticking our necks out. The portfolio is very, very different from what it was three years ago and what we're trying to do is give shareholders some feel of where we think the performance is going to be in five years' time," he said.

Mr Tuckey said the full impact of the change of strategy in MEPC's portfolio would take time but there would be progress towards the firm's targets each year.

He said there was a much firmer tone to the markets, particularly in Britain over the past few months. Apart from Northridge, the rest of the US portfolio had performed "extremely well".

MEPC plans to keep the

lion's share of its portfolio in Britain, with the remainder in the US and Australia. It has wound down its European portfolio and has no plans to go back into continental Europe in the immediate future.

Mr Tuckey said the group was keen to make acquisitions with the proceeds of its European disposals, but there was a shortage of good stock available, particularly in Britain. While MEPC has resolved to

increase the dividend paid to shareholders, Mr Tuckey could not predict when it would be raised, although he pointed out that dividend cover had im-proved to 1.15 times from 1.05

## Hornby profits from return to tradition

Nigel Cope

Hornby, the toy company, has benefited from its return to its model-railway and Scalestric roots with a sharp increase in profits for the six months to September.

However, the shares drifted into the sidings with a 7p drop to 244.5p on a cautious Christmas trading statement. Peter Newey, chairman, said: "It must

be pointed out that parts of the retail sector have expressed concern regarding the current level of pre-Christmas trading and that demand in January to March of this year was particularly strong because of the sellthrough of our products during Christmas 1995 which may not be repeated next year."

The downbeat statement comes just a day after Kingfisher Nikko to distribute the its radio-

enjoying healthy toy sales. Mr Newey was speaking as Hornby announced profits of £1.1m in the six months to September compared with £272,000 in the same period last year. They were damaged by losses in former subsidiaries such as the Fletcher speedboat business, which was sold in February.

Hornby's agreement with

terminated as the group wants to take control of its own UK distribution. Group sales were down from £13.7m to £13.1m. However, sales of highermargin railway and Scalextric were 15 per cent above the the first half of last year.

وع بسالها ي

Alan Cox is standing down as finance director. He will be replaced by John Stansfield, presently finance director of controlled model cars has been Hornby Hobbies.

## Sedgwick criticised after board reshuffle

The City reacted unfavourably to a top-management reshuffle by Sedgwick Group vesterday. saying the insurance broker should have brought in more new blood. Sedgwick named Rob White-

Cooper to succeed Saxon Riley as chief executive. Mr White-Cooper, currently vice-chairman, has been a director of Sedgwick since 1987, Analysts said insurance bro-

kers need to change the way they approach business and Sedgwick should have used this appointment to get new people on board to aid in this process. "It's a great pity that they haven't taken the opportunity company since 1985. Lord Fan-

at Crédit Lyonnais Laing. "The real danger is that we end up with absolutely no change. The brokers have to change if they're going to make a future for themselves."

Insurance brokers have seen their pool of customers shrink as those purchasing insurance go direct to insurers to buy policies, cutting out the broker as middleman. Lord Fanshawe, who will be

70 next March, will retire as chairman at Sedgwick's annual general meeting in April. He will be succeeded by Mr Riley, who has been chief executive since 1992 and a director of the to get someone from outside," shawe will remain on the boar said Robin Savage, an analyst as a non-executive director. shawe will remain on the board

Company Results Titrioger E Pre-tax E 25.4m (22 Tm) 8 19m (0 09m) 0.5p (0.3p) 1.30 (1.30) 41.2m (39 0m) 2.52m (1.8m) 6.06p (4.43p) 1.85p (1.7p) 90.4m (101m) 8.84m (8.75m) 10.1p (10p) 18 lm (137m) 9 6m (8.8m) 24.25p (20.97p) 2.5p (2.1p)
33 lm (25.8m) 6.08m (4.76m) 12.2p (3.6p) 4.05p (3.45p) Comits (1) Destry Group (i 49.9m (37 3m) 8.03m (6 00m) 9 5p (7 5p) 2.65a (2 3p) 16.1m (14 4m) 0.78m (1.3m) 4.8p (7 8p) 2.5p (2 5p) COLUMN STREET (1) 8.97bn (8 02bn) 3 88m (82bm) 2.3p (28.8p) 15 8p (14.9p) h459m (4437m) h54.6m (447.0m) 25.3p (22.9p) 6.8p (5.9p) 1.21bn (1.20bn) 238m (238m) 15.5p (15.7p) 5.8p (5.9p) 67.0m (56.0m) 1.70m (1.17m) 10.26p (7.14p) 3p (2.45p) Crand Met ( Philip Harris (I) 13 1m (15 1m) 1 16m (0.27m) 10 85p (2.13p) 2p (44) in67,1m (1174,5m) in9,63m (in8,75m) 19,53p (8,73p) 2,2p (2p) 254m (301m) -118m (-32.4m) -32.5p (-84p) pl (-) - (-) 140m (123m) 22 %p (21p) 20p (20p) 42.0m (32.1m) 2 (22m (170m) 12 43p (10.56p) 3p (2.50) MEPC (F 236m (213m) 52 0m (47 7m) 26.7p (24.3p) 5.5p (5p) per Co (f) 1.35m (1.00m) -0.7-km (-0.44m) 1.452p (-896p) -(-)-67.1m (63 3m) 3.56m (3.1m) 4 9p (4 3p) 2p (2s) 186m (180m) 12.8m (0.22m) 4.3p (3.1p) 1.25p (68) 26.6m (23.6m) 3.61m (4.46m) 22.5p (30.3p) 7.3p (-) 39.4m (25.3m) 2.6m (1.8m) 6.78p (>.82p) 2p (1.8p) 78.1m (60.7m) 8 13m (9.59m) 17.7p (17.3p) 50.1-3

The effect of this change will be included in the Annual Update of payments in January 1997. Head Office: Rowcroft, Stroud. Gloucestershire GLS 3BG. Tel: (01453) 757011

STROUD 念SWINDON

NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE CHANGE

The variable rate of mortgage interest will increase by 0.26% from 7th December 1996.

BUILDING SOCI

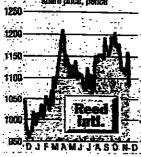
## market report/shares

## **FTSE 100** FTSE 350

4051.2 +6.0 FTSE 250 4435.8 +13.9

2012.2 +3.7 SEAQ VOLUME 910.8m shares, 37,242 bargains Gilts Index 95.11 -0.30

Share spotlight



Reed International, the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant, managed to get the stock market

into a rare old tizzy. As news flashed around that an encouraging trading up-date was about to materialise the shares were pushed 37p higher to 1,188.5p. But the words failed to live

up to expectations. Indeed, the market took the view Reed was, ever so discreetly, attempting to flag a profits warning. Such talk as we are positioned strongly to take full advantage" of growth possibilities fell on deaf ears as the market concentrated on comments about sterling's strength and the likelihood current year's figures will not include any takeover benefits.

Not, perhaps, surprising Reed shares should take fright and end the session down 64p

at 1,087.5p.
The Reed anxiety was echoed by some other media

shares. Pearson, for example, fell 4p to 711.5p. The rest of the market en-

joyed an almost indifferent day, Footsie, at one time seemed intent on surging to new highs. In morning trade it was up

30.8 points, indicating a record display could be on the cards. It was not to be. In the event the index gain was a rather unremarkable 6 points at 4,051.2 points, leaving the earlier 4,073.1 peak unchal-Prudential Corporation remained a speculative counter.

a peak, is seen as the central plank in the long rumoured changes in the financial services industry. There have been long run-ning rumours that Abbey Na-tional and the Pru plan a deal. Abbey shares fell 6.5p to 700p. A number of other possi-

bilities are exercising some of

The group, up 9.5p to 500.5p,

MARKET REPORT

City chooses not to believe the hype from Reed

DEREK PAIN stock market reporter of the year

wort Benson. There were suggestions the deal was com-

pleted at 605p. No such price appeared on the dealing screens. But if PG did pay such

port the arguments that a spe-cial dividend is far more even handed. After all, the best PG's

price of the day was 589p, thereby leaving private share-holders, unlikely to be privy to the share buy-back, once again

the more alert minds. There is a strong suspicion Commercial PowerGen, the generator, jumped 17.5p to 589p as it completed its 5 per cent buy back, through UBS and Klein-Union is in a predators sights.

The shares gamed 8p to 677.5p after at one time recording a 22.5p advance. CU's strength occurs at the time the BAT Industries break-up stories are once again being given a whirl. BAT to bid for Imperial Tobacco and then to float its financial side is a a top heavy price for its own shares then it could only supthought which has for long oc-

cupied a number of the more astute market minds. BAT, on an unofficial level, has tended to dismiss the bid stories. But like so many market rumours the BAT deal commands a certain amount of logicality. Hence the sneaking

which produced a 100p special dividend for all shareholders, price just 1p lower at 182.54p. rose 11.5p to 458.5p.

British Gas was, for once, in control. It shares flared 3.5p to 217,5p after it confirmed its proposed demerger and a deal over its take and pay North Sca

BTR fell a further 1p to 230.5p as the market fretted about the non-appearance of the expected trading state-ment. Latest word from the rumour mill is that the anxiously awaited statement could appear today.

pear today.

Forward Technology, an electronics group, slumped 11.5p to 27.5p following a profits warning but Gradus, a building materials group, jumped 34p to 159.5p on the £32.9m bid from the Headlam group.

JN Nicholls, the soft drink

group, was another indulging in a share buy-back.

It picked up 300,000 of its

Betacom, the electrical group where Alan Sugar has taken over as chairman, jumped 5.5p to 28.5p. There are suggestions the Tottenham Hotspur chief intends to use Betacom as his main elec-tronics vehicle with his long es-

tronics venice with his long es-tablished first love, Amstrad, reduced to a supporting roll, Meanwhile Manchester Utd hit a peak of 583.5p following the European Cup victory. Merrill Lynch, the company's stockbroker, quickly but mod-estly upgraded this year's forecast to £24m but should the Euro victory be completed it is, it said, a question of "ooh, la

Cantona".

Ladbroke, the betting and hotels group, continued its merry gallop as its encouraging US casino prospects attracted more support, lifting the shares 7p to 214p in busy trading

Taking Stock

☐It looks as though Brunt-cliffe Aggregates could attract a bid from Bardon, itself a long-running takeover candidate. Bardon has taken the trouble to take an option on a 14.99 per cent Bruntcliffe equity stake. It has also acquired an option on convertible stock which could lift its interest to 20 per cent. The options expires early next

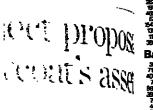
Bruntcliffe has for long been in dispute with former directors and it would appear they have provided the Bardon options. Bruntcliffe shares edged ahead 1p to

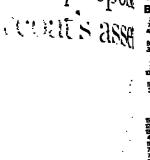
Cadcentre enjoyed a spec-tacular debut. Placed at 200p the shares closed at 240.5p. The company makes systeto aid the 3D design of process and power plants, It placed 38.2 per cent of its capital, raising £7.2m.

EDESCHER STEEL STE

1985

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| 1285 | 1885 | 11 145 (0.0 177) | 1 12
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| 1285 | 1885 (0.0 188) | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1885 | 1











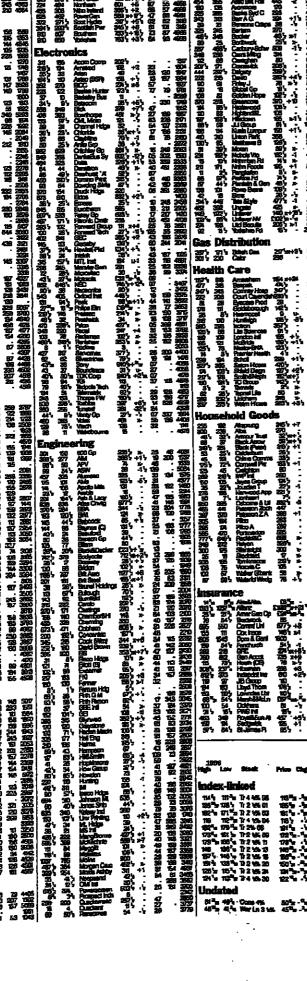


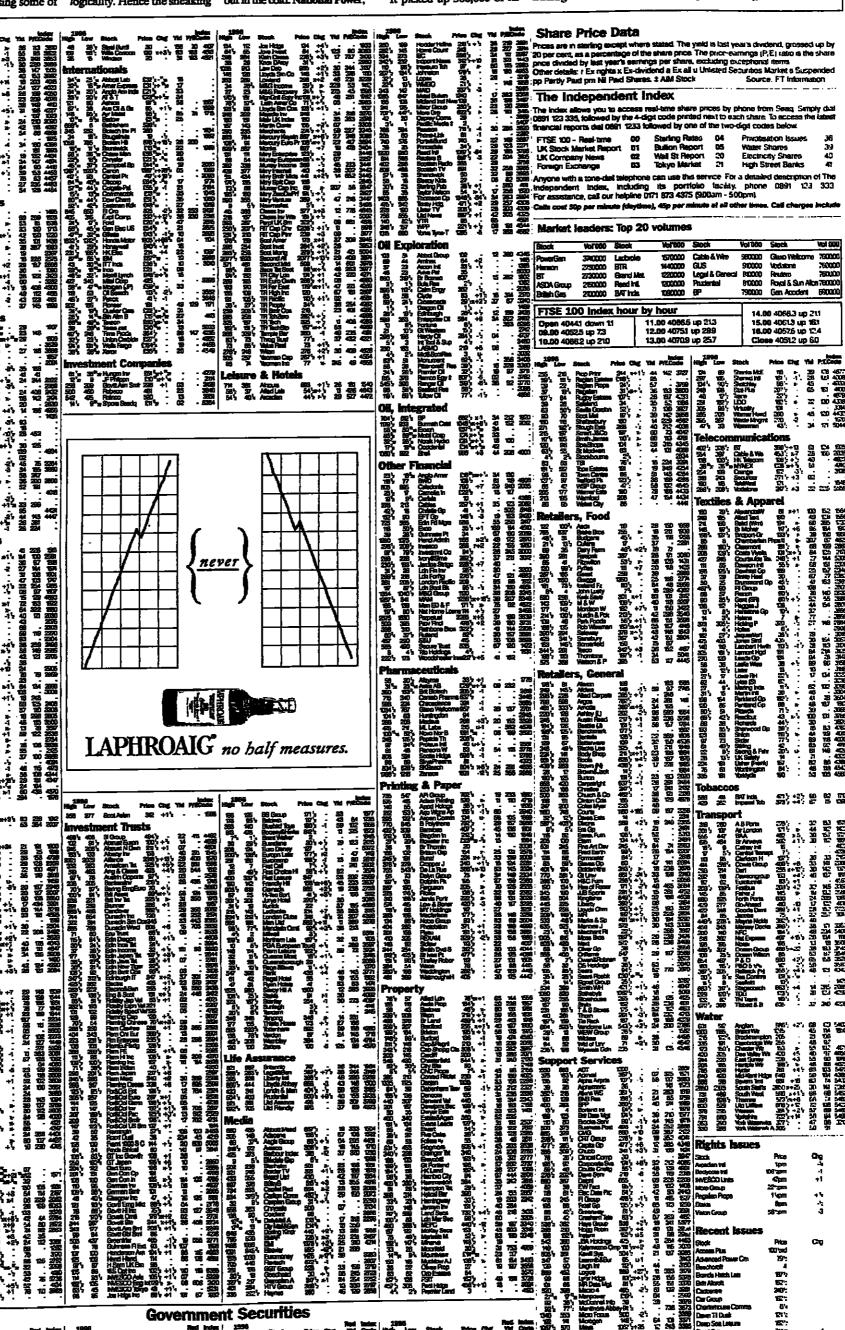












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Stock Exchange shake-up

brings in fresh faces

## First profits fall at GUS in 48 years

Nigel Cope

Great Universal Stores, the mail order giant, reported its first profits fall for 48 years yesterday after a sharp decline in its UK mail order operations which includes the Kay's and

Marshall Ward catalogues. GUS's shares dropped 25.5p to 651.5p on news of the decline and a gloomy current trading statement which said conditions in the home shopping division "continues to be difficult".

However, analysts in the City turned their attentions towards possible mail order acquisitions inder new GUS chairman Lord Wolfson, who also heads Next.

Lord Wolfson said GUS would be interested in buying Freemans, Britain's third-largest mail order company recently put up for sale by Sears. But he indicated such a deal might fall foul of the connectition authorities because of GUS's leading position in the UK mail order market.

"Clearly GUS would have to say they were interested in the possibility of buying a mail or-der company in the UK. We cer-tainly believe the market is going to consolidate, he said. Lord Wolfson said he was

keen to develop direct catalogues to balance the group's traditional mail order business which is conducted via huge catalogues and an army of 3.7 million agents. He said: "We believe that over the next 10 years there will be a trend towards smaller catalogues with relatively narrow product ranges. They will not just be niche cat-

alogues but aspirational."
He cited successful examples in the US such as LL Bean, J Crew and Eddie Bauer and said GUS would like to develop a similar business, either from scratch, through a franchise arrangement, or by acquisition. "We are looking at the route to enter that market but we are not going to get there overnight. We

company was the under-bidder for Innovations, the catalogue group acquired earlier this year

GUS's pre-tax profits fell 0.7 per cent to £235.7m in the six months to 30 September. Profits at the UK mail order division fell nearly 20 per cent to £44m due to a decline in service levels and a high churn rate among

its agents.

The company is improving its distribution and warehousing systems as well as reducing the number of under-performing agents. GUS is now operating with 250,000 fewer agents than it did last year and is aiming to improve its customer retention and average order size.

"The bubble certainly burst today," said Mees Pierson analyst Nick Bubb. "It didn't make for happy reading but I am intrigued by the emphasis on possible acquisitions."



Lord Wolfson: Analysts are looking our for the next target

Mr Bubb said GUS might try to negotiate with the competition authorities ahead of a bid for Freemans asking them to view the deal as part of the wider retail sector, not just mail order.

modest increase in profits with

rise in sterling which has made goods more expensive for At CCN Information sys-Elsewhere, GUS' Burberry's & Scotch House division saw a

sales in the UK affected by the

tems, which will link up with Experian of the US after last month's fibn deal, profits rose from £10m to £12.6m in the half.

#### érale has been appointed as head of the primary markets committee, and Mr Sants head of secondary markets. These two committees will

dominate three smaller ones: Graham Allen of ICI invest-ment Management will head institutional investors, Nigel Sherolock of Wise Speke will head the private investors committee, and Sir Ian Prosser of Bass heads listed companies.

The London Stock Exchange has named five new commit-

tee heads, including Rector Sants, vice-chairman of UBS, in a comprehensive shake-up

aimed at making the executive more responsive to parti-cipants in the stock market. Ian Salter of Société Gén-

The shake-up stems from a review set up by LSE chairman John Kemp-Welch last July. The LSE is keenly aware of its out-of-touch image, made worse by the Taurus débacle four years ago and last year's ousting of chief ex-ecutive Michael Lawrence.

The LSE says the new structure should "square the circle". Here's hoping.

Congratulations to Terri Collis, fanatical Southampton supporter and keen part-time astronomer, who has nabbed the long-vacant post of head spin doctor at NatWest.

The suave previous incumbent Simon Lewis resigned in July to join British Gas Energy, leaving NatWest's chairman Lord Alexander with a gap at his shoulder. Mr Collis, managing director of pr consultancy Lowe Bell Financial for the last four years, should fill the hole.

Sadly, Mr Collis was not prepared to discuss his "pack-", rumoured to be around £130,000. Before Lowe Bell, Mr Collis was head mouthpiece at Vickers, where he was on the executive committee, and he enjoys similar

"I was approached by Victoria Provis of head hunters Odgers a couple of months ago and I'll be joining Nat-West in the spring," he says. Apart from his die-hard

exalted status at NatWest.

## PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Planet watcher: NatWest's new spin doctor Terri Collis

devotion to The Saints - be hails from Winchester in Hampshire - Mr Collis is also known for papering his office with his own photos of Satnrn, Jupiter and the Moon.

"I shot them with my Meade SCT 10 inch reflector telescope from the roof terrace of my place in Pimlico, he declares proudly. No doubt he will be able to read in the stars what is in

store for NatWest's public image, which he admits has "room to move forward". The much publicised fire in

the Treasury on Tuesday was. I hear, much more damaging for the Office of National Statistics (ONS), housed in the same Whitehall building. than for the Treasury itself. The ONS produces the an-

nual National Accounts, and some observers are worried that publication of the Accounts, due on 20 December. might have to be postponed. A spokesman for the ONS

tells me: "The cause of the fire hasn't been confirmed, the fire authorities are still investigating. It may have been due to an electrical overload. "Some staff in Great George Street | the Treasury building | have been affected

because of the lack of power

supplies to various offices."
He continues: "As far as the National Accounts are concerned, quite a lot of staff are unable to sit in their offices #. due to lack of light, power and their PCs not working...

"The National Accounts data has a back-up which has not been affected so we are carrying on. We don't expect the publication date to be en-Jangered." Thank goodness for that. Otherwise it would bring a new meaning to the phrase "cooking the books".

Nick Batram. an analysi at brokers Grieg Middleton, is a brave man. He's urging clients to buy shares in Tottenham Hotspur.

This despite the fact that Spurs were humiliated 6-1 by Bolton last week in the Coca Cola Cup, and lost 2-0 at home

to Liverpool on Monday.
In Nick's "buy" note, he writes: "The financial performance in recent years has been strong despite a lack of success on the pitch and the well publicised boardroom 👍 distructions."

How elever of Spurs' chairman Alan Suger to buy a football club that can get. thrashed and still coin it.

John Willcock

#### European firms fail to prepare for EMU

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

Most of Europe's top companies have failed to do any detailed work on preparing for monetary union, according to a survey by KPMG Management

Despite this, the finance directors of 301 large companies overwhelmingly expected their home countries would join the single currency. Europe-wide the figure was 93 per cent and in the UK it was 77 per cent.

Furthermore, 56 per cent of all finance directors questioned expected their countries to join in 1999, a figure which shrank to 39 per cent in the UK.

KPMG said 80 per cent of companies had not estimated the costs of adapting to EMU and only 8 per cent had set aside a budget to deal with it. In this

**Foreign Exchange Rates** 

160-90 12-21 15-8 85-76 10-16 93-52 0-0 64-71 0-0

Argentia
Austria
Brazzi
China
Egypt
Finland
Ghana
Greece
India
Kuwait

**Spot Rates** 

380-270 18330 380-270 55048 31-48 13072 44-33 68117 239-225 1374 12525 240-183 77320 0-0 25210 155-168 14215 0-0 14015

Dollar 0.9999 10.9384 10.349 8.3013 3.4051 4.6530 1720,00 244,840 358050 0.3002

response, the UK is broadly in

line with the European average. Alan Reid, European head of the consultants, said: "The 80 per cent of companies that have failed to undertake such a fundamental estimate have very little time to prepare."

The consultants accused European companies of only considering short-term issues and ignoring the long-term consequences of monetary union.

Vicky Pryce, chief economist, said: "It is astonishing that such a large number of respondents had overlooked the effects of EMU on international marketing strategies.
"It will have a number of se-

rious implications for this area. the most immediate of which is that greater price transparency will make it difficult for goods to be sold at different prices in different countries."

75-73 90-87 269-258 91-101 149-147 44-45 20-17

19-59 40-48 52-101 19-114 33-35 2-7 80-85 97-99 5-9 70-65

Nigeria Oman Pakistan Prilippines Portugal Catar Russia South Africa Talwan UAE

50-25 16-20 41-16 40-37 14-16 2-0 27-30 54-56 1-4 24-19

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Dollar 798000 0.3850 40,0799 26,3400 157,080 3,8415 5524,00 4,6725 27,5200 3,6731

## PKF discloses results to show 38% increase

ago, said the improved figures

were a result of increasing con-

centration on profitability

rather than fee volume. They

demonstrated that a firm such

as PKF could be profitable if it

was well-managed and good at identifying areas where it could

make a contribution, he said.

by the loss of an audit fee, worth

about £2m, from the engineer-

ing group Williams, which has followed other large companies

in appointing a big six firm. As a result, the Derby office, which

handled that account, will be

merged with the Nottingham

operation to form an East Mid-

This year's income will be hit

Roger Trapp

Pannell Kerr Forster, the medium-sized accountancy firm, yesterday became the latest accountancy firm to break with tradition and publish its results. It reported that net profit increased 38 per cent to £15.6m on turnover up from £71.4m to £73.4m.

Managing partner John Wosner, who was one of five partners who earned between £300,000 and £350,000 in the year to the end of April 1996, said the decision to publish was a result of "disclosure becoming an issue of public interest". He said increasing question marks over the financial viability of second-tier firms had also been a factor.

Interest Rates

**Bond Yields** 

Discount Market Dep Treasury Bills (Buy) Coller CDs ECU Linked Dep

£ Buys Australie(Dollans) Austria(Schillings Belglum(Francs) Canacia(Dollans) Cyprus(Pounds)

**Money Market Rates** 

But Mr Wosner and his col-Mr Wasner, who took over

Prime 4.75% Spain 7.5% Discount 5.00% 10-Day Repo 6.75%

616 241 7:29 5:78 5:70

50%% 31% 10% 6251% 725%

 Syr
 yield %
 10yr
 yield %
 Country
 Syr
 yield %
 10yr
 yield %

 71%
 722
 7½%
 754
 Netherlands
 8½%
 4.71
 61%
 571

840% 8.25% 5% 13% 6%

leadership of the firm two years In recent years, it has developed its business advisory and management consultancy arms with a view to being able to add value to the services offered to smaller companies. "By ensuring we maintain high professional standards and develop advisory services which are attractive to our market, we are assured of a successful business with potential for growth in the future," Mr Wosner told the annual gener-

The figures also show that the average earnings of partners rose from £81,000 last year to £108,000. The improvement has been helped by cost reductions. The number of equity, or profit-sharing, partners has fallen from 140 to 130, though leagues are confident that the the number of non-equity partimprovement can be continued. ners has risen from 11 to 15.

al meeting of partners yesterday.

Liffe Fir	ancia	I Future	s			
Contract		Settlement price		/Low day	EsiConts traded	Open interest.
TORSE COR	(Dec 96)	170-13	111-50	1000	19133	2005
Germagn Gvt Ed	(Dec 96)	10258	102.53	10217	* 248H ~	21414
talan Band	(Mar 97)	2861	12937	2785	82045	87117
Japan Gvi Bd	(Dec 96)	12860	126.86	2850	494	กล
3 Min Starling	(Dec 86)	5361	8364	93.54	22142	95873
_	(Mer 97)	93.38	33.48	S327	54334	107691
3 Milit Eustemark	(Dec 96)	9576	9882	9676	39668	19075
	(May 97)	9683	9689	9682	43364	210203
3 Mith Eurofra	(Dec 96)	9294	92.98	9239	12228	62590
	(Mar 97)	5366	93.72	9361	15000	62562
3 Maio Suroyen	(Mar 97)	9945	9845	9943	. 2111	π/a.
3 May Extraords	(Dec 96)	9792	9753	27BQ	3420	24636
	(Mer 97)	9787	9796	97/80	9431	34068
3 Math ECU	(Dec 96)	9584	55	95.84	921	8325
	(May 97)	9590	9595	95.80	· 907	6885
FTSE 100	(Dec 96)	40640	40870	40485	18923	49065
FTSE 250	(Dec 96)	44450			Q.	3490
Liffe FT	SE in	dex Opt	ion			
Settlement pri	ce: 4051.0	50 ck	sing offer	price		Call/Put
Series		4000	4050	4100	4150	Total/vols
Dec		71/16	36/33	13/53	3/111	

Mar		145/A	117/94	86/117	68/146	-
		131/54		70/96	46/126	•
, Jean Feb.	٠ .	彻底		40/78	20/114	
Dec		71/16	36/33	13/63	3/111	
Series		4000	4050	4100	4150	Total/vols
	price: 4051.00		closing o			Cali

71 MO	dity Inc	dices				ecsi i	ndices
	Sees date	+Spot	<b>%chg Day</b>	31 Dec	%ohg YTD	Year ago	· Yorky Y
	1970=100	22123	+0.35	20350	+8.72	19121	+57
	1970=100	22660	-041	281/5	-19.58	27/37	-185
*	1963=100	90.53	+0.76	7 <b>13</b> 1	+26.95	63.99	+414
واجتواية	1977=100	17164	+102	193.30	-11,21	194.47	117
xx	1970=100	195.11	-138	182.71	+131	195,43	-17
us Metals	1973=100	46795	+0.55	489.86	-447	49097	-40

Commo	dity Inc	dices				ecsi	Indices
	Sees date	+Spot	%cbg Day	31 Dec	%ohg YTE	l Year ago	· Yorky Yo
Index.	1970=100	22123	+0.35	20350	+8.72	19121	+570
Agricultural	1970=100	22660	-041	281/75	-19.58	27/37	-1850
Energy	1983=100	90.53	+076	7L31	+2695	63.99	+4447
Industi Metals	1977=100	17164	+102	193.32	-11,21	194/7	1174
Livestock	1970=100	185.11	-138	182.71	+131	19843	-176
Precious Metals	1973=100	467.95	+055	48986	-447	49097	489
Source: Goldman, I	inde 3 Co GBC	a a tadayari	and springership	ol Galdsam. G	de & Ca K	Jose et d 4	Dec 1996
Trust	Pri	ces					
Stock	Sell	Bay	Yid 1 Sa			Seef Star	v Yid

\$/tome Cash 3 mil Alumintum HG 14985-95 1526 Alumintum Alloy 1330-97 136 Gapper A 2353-8 216 Lead 585-7 622- Nicial 989-20 9890-9 Th 6065-75 6095-1 Zinc 10425-35 106	17 82857 955459 18.3 85 180 73700 180 16 73729 93475 1000 25 8850 121475 375
Alaminium Alloy 330-40 356 Capper A 2383-8 295 Lead 586-7 625-7 Nicles 593-20 6880-9 Th 6065-75 6095-1	55 180 75700 100 15 75759 93475 + 1000 25 8650 121475 - 325
Gapper A 2353-8 2157 Lead 586-7 622- Nicial 5810-20 6890-9 Tin 6065-75 6085-1	-6 73750 53475 + 1000 25 8650 121475 - 375
Lead 586-7 692- Michel 5810-20 5890-9 Tin 6065-75 6095-1	25 8650 121475 - 375
Niciel 6910-20 9890-9 Tin 6065-75 6095-1	
Tim 6065-75 6095-1	DU 10895, 47028 + 854
700 TUD 5.75 THE	
Settlement Conversion 275 S/ technique retex 16235 155	Dim \$M Stock volumes & change in tom 93 112.74 as at Ties 4 Dec 96
Precious Metals	Sprik & So
pen fix in z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z Z	
Platinum 37300 23025 Britannia	367 . 238 Krughanda 364,373224.2
Pallacium 11600 7150 Britannia.5	
Silver apot 47540 293.35 Britanna 25	
Gold Bufn 36900 22673 SHEETYINGTO	oz 52 32 Mapis Lead 389/386227/2
Agricultural	CNE
Cocoa Coffee Bet	ey Potatoes Potatoes
UFFE Clare UFFE States LIFF	E Etonne LIFFE Etonne ATA GALTIDA
Dec 892 Nov 1311 Nov	92.00 Mar 53.50 -
Mar 952 Jan 1349 Jan	9325 Apr 6350 Feb Z3
May 970 Mar 1224 Mar	94.25 May 68.50 Apr 12
Vol: 7113 Vol: 6792 Vol:	135 Vot: 10 Vot: 192
White Sugar Freight Why	et Com -
UFFE Skown LIFFE SOKkept LIFF	E Storms CBOT Contachuctus
Mar 298.40 Nov 1485 Nov	
May 298.20 Dec 1425 Jan	96.25 Dec 266.25-264.00 265.25
Aug 29960 Vol. 428 Mar	9790 Mar 26400-26050 26350
Vol 1835 Index 1445 · Vol:	335 May 26700-263.50 266.25
Other Softs	
Nov Messe (No.3)** Shorme 12700	Dec Soya ORS FL/100kg BS
Jan Copra (f) S/torne 8200	
Dec Cotton (NY) UScent/b 73.80	Dec Sunflower Oile Stionne 5500
Dec Wool Acent/kg 655.00	and the second of the second o
Jen Rubber Moent/kg 31650	
Origin: (DubtySC - carry origin - tPhilipinestrature)	a "Malaysia ""N Europe Bearen; PT Information/Paulers.

atest			Trust			
Sell	Buy	Ä	Stock	Şeli	Boy	
25 6763 Dealing:	01,277 690	<b>13</b> 5	Australecien (Accum Units) Cantal	223.7 2810 994.7	236.6 257.2 119.4	222

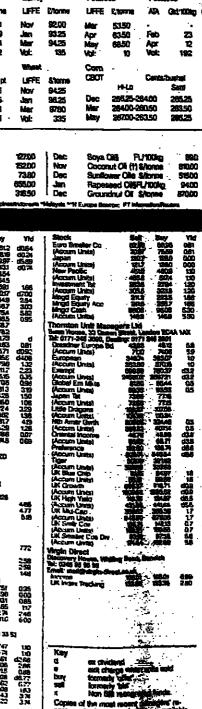
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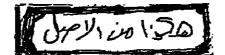
Stock	Seq	Buy	Yld	[ Stock	Sell	Bay	Yld	1 Stock	Sail
AXA Equity & Law Uni	t Trust I	Luneger		Korea Trust	5214	5527	00	Euro Sel Coca	25.81
AXA Equity & Law Hee, C CV1 LCD	orporaso	n St.Cov	mby.	Portiolo	1472	1573	20	American Emerging	182.88
Tel: 01203 653231				Portiolio Acc UK Growth	2790 1090	2979 1169	20 28	Hong Kong "	186.03
General Acc General Inc	5902 5761	7343 6129	243	LK Smaller Cost	973	106.3	d19	Japan Pacific Growth	2659 2312
LIK Grounth Acc	4736	5036	243 d258	Select Managers Chartey Fund	<b>9993</b>	9842	10		toay Funds
UK Grouth Inc	3065	3261	d2.58	Overbees Gwith Exemp	7278	73.74	01	Managed Equity Long form Bal Med form Sal	285.51 284.50
Higher Inc Acc Higher Inc Inc	8350 444 <i>8</i>	8884 4733	0404 0404	Friends Provident Unit	Trust I	facuter		Med Term Sal	204.77
Higher Inc Inc Glisafind Int Acc	263	227.3	536	United Kingdom Pae, Car Witstire SP1 3SH Enquir	de \$1, 5	iletary .		UK Equity UK Emerging Cos	3538 8065
Gets Fed in inc Not America	94.3 3798	9954 4041	536 4000	ing: 01722 718835 FP Massaud Portions Re-	Has: 0172	2 715834	Deal-	American	34004
Europa	3682	391.8	046	FP Managed Portfolio Ber	71C0			Enabeeu Jahan	122.97 369.33
Japan Tet Acc Pacific Basin Tet Acc	42.71 400	4544 4362	000 4081	Capital Gwth Acc	126270 12020	13899) 13930	d159 d018	Stratex Linked Gib	30523 19132
Brit Excell	2363	<b>998</b> 1	d272	Open Cap Gwth Acc Cap Gwth Inc Inc	11940	12/100	329	Fixed Interest	19107
Brit Freimile Acc Brit Freimile, Inc	198 7949	1284 8456	458	(Accum Units) Opn Cap Gerth Inc Inc	125.60 122.80	13460 13060	329	After Emerging Cos Pacific	403.27 235.45
Global Ones	1034	1001	458	1 (Acres on ) locates	19120	73950	391	Emerging Micts Index Strat Japan Index Strat Pacific Film	110.64
Balanced Age Balanced Inc	5478 604	68.BC	429	FP Liest Trusts FP American	63.27			MOSK Strat Japan	13851 27733
Sarcinys Unicore Limit		64.33	d2.51	IACEUM United	7091	6745 75.59	0.06 0.06	I HORE SEE LONG IS	194.04
11 Broadway, Strations 1	anden, E	15 4BJ: To	È 0181	FP Amer Smir Cos FP Asian Growth	20640	22000	4000	Index Street USA	20025
5345544 Balanced Trusts				I (Arreson Lieber)	298.20 302.60	30740 322.76	000	Overseas Sond Strate Carlmons Personal Poss	jy wood Joe Funds
Gwth 8 Inc Tot Acc	9298	9936	248	FP Australian	42:00	44900	800	Managed Egypty	12.67
Growth & Income Test in	c 4373	4674	d2.48	(Accusor Units)	478.30 285 70	51020 315,40	900	Med Term Balanced	12530 12530
European Bd Acc European 8d Inc	1209 9958	铉	607 607	l (Account links)	30351	34500	900	Long Term Belanced UK Equity	145.48
Exempl	8544	9101	d2.78	PP Equity (Accum Units)	49650 104100	49750	d2.48	UK Emerging Cos American	84.98 157.59
FTSE 00 500	1035 5048	1102 5513	d221 224	I PROMINE UK Smith	cπ280	TIE TO	246 160	Japan .	58.79
General	3326	3580	247	(Accum Units) FP Intl Bond	113.80 58.37	115/10	160	European Read Interset	153.49 33.20
Property Trustee	2448 2337	262.7 2500	d5:8	(Accum Units)	18070	61.76 17000	42	Index Linkeri (98)	8519
Income Treats		200	2.27	FP Ind Gwth	3633	40.68	d005	Depositi Emerging Markets	68.48
Cash Acc Cash Inc	1250 2008	1258 1008	5.27	PP Pac Basin Accum	21940	8005 23400	005 2000		4518 4837
Distribution	113.2	138	527 09.17	FP Income (Accum Units)	6A98 20980	62.91	d484	Broker Unit Treats BNM international	
Extra income Cit & Pet Int*	1399 5973	1490	465	ED 100 E- C 2	26380	22350 2810	484 000	Bristoff Oth Plate Inc	158.00 74.29
Income	605.6	6120 6477	CZ78	FF Morethy Des (Account United)	7861	B1LB1	d4.81	1 Do (Accum)	76.59
Income Builder	7046	7517	518	FP Sterling Deposit	13200 10070	148.20 100.70	481 4530	Briefolf inc Philip inc Do (Accum)	65.36 73.02
ind income Growth Treats - LIK	725	7790	2.27	(Accum Lines) FP Tokyo	115.70	19870	530	Brierch!! Wwide Pipilo	6041
Capital	1462	554	186	(Account Intto)	75.49	79.71 80.52	900	Govett (John) Unit M 4 Bettle Bridge Laws, Lo Tel: 1171 378 7879	
Growth Acc Letsure (2)	4429 1797	4725 1902	209 078	FP UK Focus (Accum Units)	4321	4800	d4.88	Tel: 0171 378 7979	adon SE1 2
Recovery	4864	5335	273	FP UK Growth	55.21 20490	5675 21850	485 2.22	UK Equity inc UK Small Cos	96.74
Smir Cos Acc. Smir Cos Inc	6916 5860	74.1E 62.84	242	(Accum Links	41290	44040	222	British Growth	68.93 70.68
Sciecial Site	406B	4399	15	Stenvardehip (Accum Units)	43470 54920	46360 68560	d134 134	American Gwan	28143 95.20
Growth Trusts - Overseas America	902	1912	d0.31	Stwideno inc	7978	86.09	<b>45</b>	Japan Gwth Greater China	5520 2855
Arner Recovery Acc	1298	138.2		(Accum Units) Am Stedsing	12920	15730	475 026	Pacific Strategy	180.02
F East Gwth Acc Far East Gwth	3019 1791	3237 1920	破	(Accum Units)	13900	146.20	626	Elizabean Gwith	120JG 188.06
Euro Gwyn Acc	:H2	23U	0068 058	Gertmore Fund Manag Gertmore House, 19-18 M	ers	_		US Index	F188034
Euro Gwell Inc Jeografi	1942	2080 1462	0.56	Garanore House, 19-18 M ECSR 800	onuMant	St. Londo		FTSE 250 Index	9188 4038
Japan & Gen Inc	1365	1448		Tel: 0171-782 2000 Acades	g anty: O	277-2544	21	Seared UK Index	\$1003BS :
Japan Spec Sits Wondards	6394 2008	6773		Loternot: http://www.Bl.co.i UK Growth Funds				UK Seleguard lades & Boar Funds Dani	119800
*Also known as Jacome M		er <sup>2131,2</sup>	035	) British Growth	6178	65.84	199 524	Hong Kong Index Hong Kong Beer UK Index	103792 103792 1035480
<b>Barino Fund Managers</b>	Las			Cash Trust Practical inv (inc)	14735	14735	524 380	LIK Index	255469 ! 54 551
PO Box 831, 199 Bishoper Eng: 0171 767 6460, Deal	rio :Lom	don ECZN	37S	Do (Accum) UK Index	30190	322.89	380 327	Japan Index	C00306
APPROXICATION CARROLL	1385	214 1004 1455	90	LIK Streeter Con	20834	185-37 222-82	327 017		20758 295390
American Smit Cos	1991	ROT	60	UK Smaller Cos Income Fends				UK Bear	25,9033
Convertibles Eastern	6105 3081	65.36 330 <i>9</i>	48 20	Extra Yield High income	2504 3524	25.95 37.58	726 d482	Japan Bear Girl Bull Gilt Bear	\$8.3033 \$11.8869
Equity income	201	1093 3940	d42	UK Equitiv Income	182.62	17333	309		26,3500
European Growth Europe Select	372.4 367.4	397.5	-08 -308	Giotal Bond International Funds	2915	30.22	470	MSBC Unit Trust Man 6 Bade Maris, Leadon ECS	egament.
Femal	1050	1090	28	Emerging Markets Global Managed*	45.53	4908	500	Investors: 0608 289505 [	Arctine : 01
Exempt Fixed Interest German Growth	1075 8866	1056 0400	d80 05	Global Menaged* Gold 5 Intl Res	162.28 108.03	15179 1554	120	Benton	102.6
Glotal Bond	7285	9402 7260	65	Girtrel (hilbing	148.74 148.74	153.55 153.55	000 125	Benice Fund Initial Char	
Global Growth Japan Growth	146.: 1850	1985	d0.4	Overvees Francis American	20752	22026		Legal & General (UT ) Temple Court, 11 Opped	Sampgers Actors Ser
Japan Sumee	1416	502	. 23	Encossu	20752 141.85	20126	061 063		
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20060		shumes)			emandi		22/80				-
17,5400	Gam	erry(Mark	s) 24950	Norwa	y(Keone	r)	104580	l	Sease date	+Spat	
513500	Greec	e(Drachs)	nei) 394.7500	Portug	بعد ک) آمر	dos) 2	52,7000	Index Agricultural	1970=100 1970=100	22123 22660	Ι.
2:800	Hong	Kong(Do	ters) 124200	Spain	Pesetas	) 2	027500	Energy	1963=100	905	į
07500	Irelan	d(Punts)	0.9685	Swedi	en(Krond	ar)	110175	Inclusti Metals	1977=100	17164	
9.5900	italy(I		2475,0000		atand(Fr		21030	Livestock	1970=100	185.11	
2.8025		r(Yen)	183,4000	Turkey			120000	Precious Metals	1973=100	467.95	5
75900	New		0.5806		( — — )   States:		18100	Source: Goldman, I	Sanda S.Co. (SSC) i	a taise	at a
120.0		<u></u>									
				au	est	U	nit	Trust	Pri	ces	3
-	_					_					
Sail	Buy	Ytd	Stock		Sell	Buy	AM	Stock	Şali	Buy	
255.57 192.68	228.91 195.54	020	SCAR (TP Enquiries: 017) 5	75 67H3	Dealler	m 977 69	COS.	Australesien (Accum Units)	223.7 2810	298.6 2077	3
58503	200.90	d000 123	fatherers legal en	q-deam	Dealing:			J Crachel	994.7 1675	2562 2572 1559 1560 764 5115 7561	3
216.59 231.12	22987 248J1	000	Castr Accum Equity Dist		5984 60080	5864 60080	c539 d234	(Accum Units) Changing	1875 7835	2560 2564	å
hov Aunda			Equity Accum Equity Income UK Tactical Alloc		224300	174300	d264	(Accum Linus)	40834	41344	đ
265.51 264.50	28651 28450	191 282	Equaty Income	-att-	10820 8951	108.25	470 395	Commodity (Accum Units)	4835 760	581.3 7561	
234.37	25450 23437 31635	200	European Fer Eastern		14930	14830	d092	i Camerand Grows	h 11373	12027	•
3538 8065	315.35 20.05	d2.47 d1.96 0.58	Per Eastern   Phono Interest		23900 55.00	55.92	712	(Accuen Unes) Corporate Bond	12563 2634		•
34004 122.97	#80.85 340.04	058	Gir		92.87	92.67	772 833	Distributed	4480	2844 4720	d
36933	12207 36933	000	Global Growth Ind Bond		5412 6256	842 8256	d030	(Access Links) Espaily Income	202.4 3343	214.0 353.3	•
19132	19132	d2.63	Jacobski		6548	6545	ď			4869 688J	i
18107 403.27	18107 403.27	900	North American Pacific Growth		23340 12580	233A0 12560	061 025.	European & Gene (Accum Links)		688J 883.7	
23545	23545	dD70	LK frylax		7912	7917	317	Furnmen Diseten	d Atam	65.20	3
118.64 138.61	13854 13851	049 021	UK Recovery UK Smaller Cos		1830 18220	1810 162.20	d) 559 123	(Accum Units) Extra Year	1061 4746	122	3
21713 19404	217:13 19404	098 164	UK Stockmerket US Index	Acc	7430 86.75	24.90	d172	(Accum Linux) Sth East Asia	1605.2	5019 18977 4388	4
2002	20025	143	European Index		9406	88.75 94.09	d156	(Accum (Intel)	44.9 563.7	5877	
79 103.85 100 Funds	103.85	143 d454	Jacom Indias		<b>37:26</b>	9409 3726	d 148	Fund of Inv Tax	7264 1403.3	7882	ď
125.67	3390		Worldwide		100.30	10030	0148	(Accum Units) General	72 26	7545	đ
1200	11914	- [	Mounthation House	EL COM	Manage Ma Ma Manage Ma Ma Manage Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma Ma	WEA 4	F 1	(Acoum (Jints)	2174	2251	3
12530 14548	13648 15582	- : 1	Lioyds Bank Up Mounthation House Tel. 01824 838000 Betanced Inc Betanced Acc Court Survey Co	Deallog	F 01534 6	34513	d2:8	(Accum Units) Gold	6374 194.23	7882 1884 1845 2251 6324 59453 7690 9200 3620 548	- 2
84.98 167.59	90.34 187.95	٠ ا	Belanced Acc Cont Europe Gr		99540	108000	258	Gold	7770	76.90	9
58.70	62.54	- :	Cont Europe Gr	200	BL79 88.57	8610 93.24	d036	(Accum Links) High Income	8718 3420 1662 9290 1644	36.20	. 4
153.49 93.20	163.28 99.75	: !	Extra income inc	•	309.70	100.20	036 6375 375	(Accust Units)	146.2	1548 88.20	4
8519	9062	}	Extra income Ac FTSE 60 Inc	20	60730 125,30	65340	375 281	(Accum Linits)	1644	1738	5
68,48 45,18 48,37	9082 9417 4805	: 1	ETRE 100 Acre		<b>13020</b>	21920 14930	26i	(Accum Units)	#32 #87	1922	- 2
48.37	5146	· ]	German Growth German Growth Growth Portfolio Growth Portfolio	nc Acc	14130 14820	+4400			3720	39.20 4230 138.7	_
	166.32	0.BI	Growth Portfolio	inc	SZLZIJ	72210 72250	0.08 0.05	(Accum Units) Japan Smeller Co. (Accum Units)	3990 312	<b>621</b> 0	
74.29 76.59	7641 7972	060	High Interest Inc. High Interest Acc Income Inc	~~	70730 10210	<b>TES</b>	728	(Accum Units)	1321	1397 2920	
6536	6887	13350 I	High Informat Acc		10830 56200	112.30 547.90	726 351	Managed Growth Managed Income Michael	2770 3040 6150	3150	d
7302 8041	7707 6378	4050 4350	income Acc	_ 1	1908.00	777100	331	Midland (Accura Units)	6150 2166	6500 2292	4
nagement	LIM		income Acc losome Portiolio locome Portiolio	inc Acc	573.70 849.30	69070	#25	Perision Ex	23079	11151 5080	4
don SE1 2H	中		Japan Growth A Japan Growth A Master Treat Inc	E .	93.63 93.95	9861		Recovery (Accum Units) Second General	4800 8250	50.80 5740	3
96.74	103.46	eus l	Master Treat Inc	66	8095 6854	9996 72.92	137	Second General	7740	8740 81 <b>5</b> 0	3
68.93 70.68	73.72 75.62	8409 8062 256	MARKET TOURS ACC	•	795	8421	137 127 225	(Acques Lints) Smaller Cos	2081 69-40	2211 7340	3
28143 3 9520	30096	2000 I	Albertjum Acc American & Gen American & Gen	inc	9804 25800	27450	ا سا	(Accum Units) Tesasury	2081 68-40 143.6 25.10	73.40 520	3
29.55 S	5905 5062	000	American & Gen Am Ber Cos & R	Ace	23860 20136	31770		Trustee	4390 1920	23.5 48.40 2023	قه
160.02	17113 12844	000 l	Am Sm Cas & R	ec Ace	20800 28070	8421 10430 27430 31770 21480 25820	J	(Account Units)	1925	2029	æ
158.06	178275	HOOS I	Pacific Sasin Acc		27770	20550	- 1	Newton Fund Mar 2 Feeting Square, E. Camp 0000 674350	tagers Lbd Britansh FHX 4	<b>6</b> 31	
168034 € 9188	9125 9127	验	Am Bir Cos & R Am Sm Cos & R Pacific Basin inc Pacific Basin inc Pacific Cos & Re Smair Cos & Re UK Equity Growth UK Saydry Incom UK Gowith Inc UK Gowith Acc Workshide Growth Workshide Growth	c inc	53200	MACOOO	ᅋ	Cilimate (800) 674330 0500 440000	Broker 9500 60	1000s,Dee	Ž,
4038	4231	<b>d8.89</b>	UK Equity Growt	h	73480 16870 13200	77350 17950	245 250	interpet: Information	Garanter co. et		
110000 7	18.9968 27570	475	LIK Equity Incom	•	13200	14050	280 I	American American Ass	5640 5684	6000	8
25 5171 86 25 5792 25 26 5469 25 24 557 27	5 0933 89646 89590 149464	925	LIK Growth Acc		3590	11530 1457	179	Gnace .	123.57	6046 10976 8257	- 1
25460	U\$580		Worldwide Grow	hine hAe:	38970 53160	38270 56530	028	Casti Acc Cash Income	6957 5020	8957 5020	뇿
		475 000 325	Premier Exempt Lloyds Branspi Um European Acc		170.70	17840	270	Characteristics	105.28	11200	8
POTER P	208216 25670	35	European Acc	2740 H	2020	22650	d1.76	- Europeen Foundation	5758 11234	6125 1951	2
25.9099 25 25.9099 25 28.3032 25	82380 82780	525 478 900	Far Eastarn Ace		7514 4230	7920 4485	dV7	General Global	221.37	255	1
583033 S \$18668 \$1	8.772G 12.6441	999	Japan Act North American	Aqc	26.997	20170	d191	Gozanti	383% 14596	40761 15435	2
063592° 0	B.770?	45	UK Equity Acc UK Smell Cos Ac	•	30490 15730	31250 15730	d273 d190	Growto Acc Higher Income Inc Higher Income Acc	14945 3291	756.98 35.01	2
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## McCourt unveils detailed plans for Sister Stephanie

ready provided Graham Mc-Court with one of the most frustrating moments of his short training career, when his chaser Sister Stephanie fell at the last fence in a valuable novice chase, but he clearly harbours no superstitious aversion to the track. The very same mare, the standard bearer for his yard, will return there tomorrow for the Rehearsal Chase and, perhaps, for the Welsh National in three weeks' time. On her broad shoulders rests a heavy burden

of expectation.

and suddenly they're both on the floor and the plan's gone."

Sister Stephanie has already worked her way into affections both at McCourt's yard and beyond, and attracted plenty of support in William Hill's Welsh
National list yesterday, forcing
a price cut from 14-1 to 12-1.
Her backers will hope for a
strong performance in tomor-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Centaur Express (Market Rasen 2.30) NB: Robsand (Hereford 3.10)

row's limited handicap, but need not be too disappointed if vic-tory is beyond her. "She's going to Chepstow simply to get a run under her belt before her Christmas target," McCourt said. "I'd be pleased if she won because she'd have made the transition from ordinary horse to good horse in one bold jump. But while I expect her to run a very tidy race, I can't, with my hand on my heart, see her winning." Neither, somewhat worry-

last upsides another good borse, ingly for her ante-post backers, well known for viewing Flat racdoes McCourt necessarily see ing with thinly veiled disdain, Sister Stephanie returning to Chepstow on 27 December. but even he may appreciate the efforts of his summer counterparts on Britain's behalf on "Her main target is to have a run, put her on the button with-Sunday. Several of our top out having a hard race, and then trainers will be represented at Hong Kong's valuable International meeting at Sha Tin, and there will be disappointment if all return empty-handed.

Ed Dunlop's Iktamal, winner of the Haydock Park Sprint only £40,000, and it might be an easier race over there, so she'll Cup, was backed from 5-1 to 7-2 go wherever I think she has the best chance. But she must have with Victor Chandler yesterday to land the International Bowl, soft ground, and she'll be sure to get that at Chepstow." McCourt can be forgiven for while Tagula, trained by lan Balding, is also prominent in the betting for what will be his final taking such care over his mare's race. Frankie Dentori, who will schedule, since one good horse partner Tagula, has already ridcan be enough to kick a young trainer's career path into a den a winner at Happy Valley this week and is looking forward to Sunday's card. "I'm delghted sharp upward curve. "She is a real star for us, and we love her to be back, I'm flying and I can't to bits. She's a big, imposing old bird and everbody seems to know her. I was riding around

wait." he said vesterday. Dettori will also ride Needle Gun (Cup) and Luso (Vase) for in town and Capt Forster came Clive Brittain, while First Island, up and said, 'is that her?' It's in the Cup, is another British something when the Captain says something like that with all the good horses he's had." challenger. Both will need to be at their peak to master Da Hoss. Michael Dickinson's The same Captain Forster is Breeders' Cup Mile winner.

Ray Cochrane, reported missing 12 days ago, has telephoned Cambridgeshire police to inform them that he is safe and well. However, he refused to tell them where he was.

main open until Cochrane, 39,

1988 Derby on Kahyasi, was reported missing from his home at Swaffham Prior, near Newmarket by his wife, Anne.

and brother-in-law. Andrew A police spokesman said the Gilbert, said yesterday: "It is missing-person file would remain open until Cochrane, 39, was seen by officers in person.

purely and utterly a domestic dispute. He went away wanting a bit of time to himself, that's

#### Cochrane calls the police

Cochrane's booking agent



#### Falls emphasise fund's worth

"On the Gallops" by Malcolm Coward, distinguishes the front of this year's Injured Jockeys Fund Christmas card, the

fund's chief source of revenue. In a year which has claimed the life of one jockey. Richard Davis, in a racecourse fall, and at a time when two of the leading riders over jumps, Mark Dwyer and Lorcan Wyer, are out of action because of se-

MARKET RASEN

12.30 BOB KETT CONDITIONALS SELLING HCAP HDLE (CLASS G) £2,450 2m 3f 110yds

— 12 declared —

### Aminutu weight: 10st. Two hundings weight: Tough Character 9st 6th.

#### BETTING: 3-1 Glomally, 4-1 Mighted Parts, 6-1 Parish While, In A Moment,
7-1 Troy's Dream, 30-1 Weether Mert, Hangiston Lad, 14-2 others

1.00 CONSTANT SECURITY NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 3YO 2m 1f 110yds

raid 10 12

- 17 deciared -BETTING: 7-2 Behrerita, 4-1 kip klore Hausia, 6-1 Parrot's Hill, 7-1 Six Clerks, Northern Palcon, 10-1 Postsvedra, Propolis Power, 14-1 others

1.30 CALDERPRENT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,800 added 2m 1f 110yds

SHOUL Mrs V Aconley 10 12 ... 04 SIX CLERISS (20) J FitzGerald 1

SOCIETY MARIC (USA) C Marin 10 12... 2 BELMARITA (20) 9 Hubbard 10 7.....

rious injury, the risks which riders take and the need of a fund to support them remain all to

Dwyer, whose arm was smashed in a fall at Kelso on Monday, has been weaned off painkillers and was allowed home from hospital yesterday. Wyer is determined to ride again after a fall and a kicking at Aintree a fortnight ago left

him with multiple facial injuries. "Half an inch difference and l could have lost an eye." he said. Available with the cards, which cost £4.50 per pack of 10. are calendars (to each), ties

(£10), tote bags (£7). Orders should go to the Injured Jock-eys Co Ltd, 29 Mill Lane, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 9EU. Telephone: (01483) 715430; Fax: (01438) 717515.

## 

12.30 Glenvally 1.00 Parrot"s Hill 1.30 Alzulu 2.00 CELTIC SILVER (nap) 2.30 Centaur Express 3.00 Mister Drum 3.30 Air Bridge	9 4160-60 OAMK PRODUCT (125 0 Person 6:10 7
GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places, Soft in places).  Exigit-hand, sharp, undubating circuit. Run-in of one furloog.  Exigit-hand, sharp, undubating circuit. Run-in of one furloog.  Ecourse is E of town on ASSI. Marker Racen station (Unrein-Grimsty tine) Im. ADMISSION: Clob S12 (Juniors 16-21 & students SH; Tattersalis S6 (OAPs who are members of course's Judice (Tub S3). CAR PARK: Plente areas S2, remainder free.  SIST.  RECORD  REC	2.00   ALEXANDRA MOTORS HANDICAP CHASE   (CLASS E) E4,500 added 3m 4f 110yds   111140   110yds   111140   110yds   111140   11140   111140

2	2.30	CLUGSTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,800 added 2m 1f 110yds
1	DF5200-	HESW FIRM (251) S Goldings 5 12 0 K Garde (3)
2	17112-1	CENTULER EXPRESS (SS) (D) A Street 4 11 12
3		COLORFUL AMBURON (7) (D) Ms. A Swetcark 6 11 5 J Ruillon
4	22600-6	REMOCERET GEORGE (116) (CSD) Mass L Skitche 7 10 6 . It Supple
5		MERILENA (22) G Hubbard 6 10 0 N Roseiter (7)
6	110-043	SHERS DELIGHT (13) O Sterran 6 10 (
7	P0100/	FRED'S DELIGHT (552) Mrs. V Acortey 5 10 0 P MicLoughills
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3.00 UK HYGENE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS I
1 005-1FU GOLDEN HELLO (S) (SF) T Easterby 5 11 5
2 311-121 MUSTER DRUM (10) M Wildreson 7 11 5
3 1/70725 BOLD BOSS (B) (BF) G M Moore 7 10 12
4 PO-35PR CARDOOL SHOPER (13) J Wade 7 10 12
5 5F FAIR ALLY (5) M Soversby 6 10 12
6 130-04F FEMILICA'S BROTHER ED Mis S Smith 6 10 12 R Williams (
7 3214-3F JACK DOYLE (13) 68F) J ! O'Nell 5 10 12 Richard Got
8 02021-4 THURSDAY NGENT (30) J Fe/Gerald 5 10 12 A Dobb
9 P102-02 UK HYCKENE (8) 14 Hammond 6 10 12
- 9 declared -
RETINACE S.S Michael Domas 11.4 Cobine Madio 4.1 back Dovids, S.S Ro

- 9 declated -				
ETTING: 5-2	Missier Drum, 11-4 Golden Hello, 4-1 Jack Doyle, 9-2 Bold			
Dec. 6-1 The	tradey Hight, 8-1 UK Hyglane, 10-1 Feb Ally. 25-1 others			
,				
A A A	CHRISTMAS INTERMEDIATE CLAIMING NE			
<b>ふ</b> よし!	CHRISTMAS INTERMEDIATE CLAIMING NO FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 2m 1f 110yds			
	HEAT KARS (CEASS II) STOOM SULTI TITINGS			
5	PHAR ENOUGH (41) / RisGerold 4 11 9			
06	AIR BRIDGE (20) R Windsley 4 11 5			
	POPPY'S DREAM (24) J Wherton 6 10 12 Mr R Thomston (5			
	GAME DRIVE (200) K Morgan 4 1D 11 E Carbaghen (3			
	PUSH ON POLLY J Pasies 5 10 10			
450				
75-0	SPRIG MUSEUM (17) D Gardodo 4 10 (Sophie Mitchell (5) )			
	THE LADY CAPTAIN D Thom 4 10 4			
	DON'T TELL MARKE I Carr 6 10 2T J Comprised (7)			
0	MOVES 201 W Smith 6 10 0			

- 9 decimed -BETTING: 2-1 Poppy's Deems, 7-2 Sprig Musils, 6-1 Air Bridgs, Pho 7-1 The Lady Captain, 8-1 Deat Tell Marie, 10-1 others

| 2\_10 | BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICE CHASE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £4,500 2m 3f | 345514 | IEBM ARTIST (15) Mes C JONES; 6 11 5 ..... I. Harvey 2 4281-31 | MARRISTS IMPROS (25) N Texton-Disses 9 11 0 ... Jib M Rissell APPLE JOHN (15) R Ainer 7 10 12 ... P Henoly (5) 4 43P04-0 BANKONN (6) D BASES 10 12 ... P Henoly (5) 5 APPLE JOHN (16) R Ainer 7 10 12 ... R Henoly (5) 5 61223 | FEEL THE POWER (16) R BASES 7 810 12 ... C 0'Downer 7 OU HERH HANDED (26) T Calonel 5 10 12 ... S Wylnie 9 3054-PP MINES GOUD 177 Mes 1 Revorts 6 10 12 ... M Richards 9 10 12

#### HEREFORD

12.40 Warner For Players (nb) 1.10 Monks Jay 1.40 Harry 2.10 Feel The Power 2.40 Segata 3.20 Coney Road 3.40 Aztec Warrior INSPECTION: 7am

GOING: Good to Sort (Good in places).

Right-hand course with 300yd run-in.

Rececourse is north of city on A49, Hereford railway station is one rule away. ADMISSION: Cub 5 12; Tattersalls 59; course enchasure 55... CAR FARE: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Filch (12.40). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Noos. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Sepala (2.40). Just One Qu. tion (3.40). Magagians (3.40) & Old Cavaller (12.40) have be sent 221 miles by J J O'Nell from Steham Wood End, Cambris.

1 ==	<u></u>	CO GO I A O LICE HORI ENGINE MODE (1999) C. MINISTE
	L2.40	WIDEMARSH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds
11	1363-10	MEDFORD (12) W G M Turner 6 11 5
١ō	300000	ACHEL PRINCE (321) N Aprile 5 10 12 W McFarlan
l ā		AUTHOREY GALE F Lloyd 5 10 12S Wyen
Jā	040342-	BALLESHIEDDEN (263) 3 Smart 4 10 12   Laurence
1 5		BOORS MADDEN (23) Miss V Williams 5 1D 12_N Williams
Ιš		BURNTWOOD MELODY (12) P Daton 5 10 12   Same
17	0411-	CHILL HERCHTS (065) K Sistop 6 10 12
lε	0-0	MR MOTIWATOR (23) 1 Heddy 6 10 12D Leaf
l g	600	MY SHENHIDOWN (9) H Ower 5 10 12
10		MURISON (9) R Diction 7 1D 12 Mr C Bottoner C
١ū		OLD CAVALER (41) J.J. 074:3 5 10 12
12		SUPREME FLYER (214) K Souler 6 10 12
1 13		THE BREWER (15) Turk 4 10 12
14		WARNER FOR PLAYERS (23) P Hobbs 5 10 12 B Power
15		PLCK (5) P Musphy 5 10 7R Persont
1 16		MADAM MUCK (202) N THESOT-DEVES 5 10 7 Jest

- 16 decimed -RETUNG: 3-1 Books Woodden, 4-1 Warmer For Players, 6-1 Mardem Maci 7-1 Supremo Flyer, 8-1 Medical, 18-1 Old Cavaller, 12-1 Others 1.10 SENEY PHILLES FOR FOR Added 2m 3 SIDNEY PHILLIPS FOR PUBS HANDICAL

1_40 PENCOED SELLING HURDLE (CLASS £2,500 added 2m 1f	5 G)
1 55P-1 NARRY (125) D Burchell 6 11.5	chel
2 03/522-0 STRING-A-POSE (5) B Licensin 6 11 0 No. J L Lia	ere Byrn
3 0FO BALLYMYS (61) N Aprile 7 10 12	
4 COMEDMUP J M Bradey 5 10 12	-
5 OP DARBING RIDE (20) / Smith 5 10 12	مشور
6 BLEN CARNOCK R Juckes 4 10 12Gary	كمتحا
7 POS/2-06 LINE STREET BLUES (38) C Brooks 5 10 12 G Rea	
B 0 MONTY (27) G Yardey 4 10 17 P Man	
9 8 OFFICE HOURS ON W 6 M Turner 4 SD 12W MOR	
1D PROUD WASE & McCourt 4 10 12 E C	
11 000-PO4 COUCK DECESSON (24) 1 Cressed 5 10 12	
12 05- SMILEY PACE (\$16) R Hodgs 4 10 12	
13 AUDREY CRACE Mas Gay Yellowy 5 10 7 D Bilds	
14 0 TOMORBONS HARVEST (16) R Hodges 4 10 7 Lan	
- 14 decimal -	

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	8		OLLY BOAT F Jorden 9 10 12 S W PRINCES GOLD [37] Mrs L Rectords 6 10 12 Mr Red KINGS SHILLING (18) H Over 9 10 12 Jacqui (	فحدار
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	10	465234	Marca 2007045 (78) H Open 3 10 15 backer (	-
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	14	NO HIP (	I MONING (TR) L MANGE 2 TO L WAY A MANG	e (v)
			- 14 ODG-1890 -	
	-	11002 /-I	Feel The Power, 3-1 Nations Mirror, 6-1 Zaltoon, 8-1	
	740	J002, 10	-1 July Boat, High Handed, 14-1 others	
	12	740	INNPLAN AMATEURS NOVICE HANDIC	ΆP
		2.40	HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2n	
en				
	1	B-3-641	WAYFAHERS WAY (15) N Henderson 5 11 10 Me C Vigor	달
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•	4 5	UIU-AT	COUNTRY MINISTREL (18) S Douch 5 10 13 Mr J Julies RINGER'S ROOST (18) (Ch) G Jones 5 10 11 Mine P Jones	:달:
	6	MAT 252	FOLLOW DE CALL (13) D Abcom 6 10 8 Mr G Lake	-77
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	10	2017.00	HONEYBED WOOD (13) I Brown & 105 Mr A Brown ROYAL GLINT (160) IN Haynes 7 105 Mr P Makillate	- 77
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			Signat, 14-1 Country Minstrel, 16-1 others	-
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2		110	I KINGS CAPLE NOVICE HANDICAP CHA	Œ
	15	70	(CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m 1f 110;	/ds
	15		(CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m 1f 110	/ds bri
	1		(CLASS F) £4,000 added 3m 1f 110; ROBSAND (13) G Baking 7 11 10	/ds lord
	1 2	00:3-4 P103/32	BOBSAND (15) G Balong 7 11 10	ioni ray
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7 S DOM BELTRANO (17) N TWESTY-DOMES 4 11 4 L. Suthern (7) 8 IACK J Turk 4 11 4 S McNell 9 RIST BEAVARD 8 De Iragh 4 11 4 L. Lannacce 10 0 IONESTS CREST (27) R Debn 6 11 4 L. B. Prometi 11 0 MERITY'S CREST (27) R Debn 6 11 4 L. B. Prometi 12 ONE MOTE INDIFFE C Memple, 5 11 4 L. B. Prometi 13 SUBPONY VEHTURE N Hydrestyn 4 11 4 M. A. Richard 14 SUBPONS (2017 A J Webp. 5 11 4 A. Thomston 15 4 CALINDOS (28) J Needern 8 10 13 G Hogan (3) 16 00-0 MARSLASS (9) J 10 Needern 8 10 13 G Hogan (3) 8 Bradley 25 Charp Head, 4-1 Guiden 4 Destruction, Just One Question, 8-1 Calindos, 10-1 others

#### **Players** to fight over quota

sport

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The Rughy League Players' Association is to fight the expansion of the overseas quota to say per club. The change was approved by the Rugby League Council on Wednesday, but the players union chairman, Nic Grimoldby, describes his members as "up in arms" over the issue.

We believe that it is a disaster in both the long and the short term," Grimoldby said. "As players come off the quota after five years in Britain, clubs will have more than six imports on their books.

"It is going to cut off op-portunities for a whole gener-ation of British players and it is only being driven from Australia in order to fix up their sur-

plus players."

The Association is consulted by the Department of Employment over new applications for work permits.

We will not give our backing to any of the new appli-cants," said Grimoliby, who has been trying to arrange a meeting with the League's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, to

discuss his members' concerns. Wigan confirmed yesterday that they are in negotiations with Wasps which could lead to Va'aiga Tuigamala staying with the union club until the end of their Courage League season.

Warrington, who have broken off talks with St Helens over the sale of lestyn Harris, have the League's backing in their bid to sign the New Zealand Test forward, Tony Tatupu. Halifax also claim to have signed the play-er, but Lindsay said that, in the absence of any evidence, Warrington's registration of the player was regarded as valid.

#### New coach provides a boost

Rowing HUGH MATHESON

Britain's lightweight oarsmen were boosted vesterday when the appointment of Sean Bowden as the new national coach was announced. Bowden took the lightweight eight to the world championship in 1994 and was then transferred to the heavyweight crew for Atlanta. In his absence the performance of the lightweights slumped: the Olympic double finished 12th and the coxless four 10th, though this failure was, in part, due to the lack of an experienced lightweight couch. Bowden, 33, was head coach at Nottinghamshire County, a main source of lightweight talent, from 1989 to 1994.

The other key oarsmen gravitated to London Rowing Club. These two groups were often divided when there was no single person in charge of the pro-gramme. He said "We have proved in the past that composite crews work but we must deal sensitively with the clubs. The challenge will be to get the best out of the talent we know is there."

Bowden's appointment depends on a grant from the Lottery Sports Fund Class Performance Programme and will, ideally, continue to the Sydney Olympics. He thinks lightweight performances have improved rapidly since they were admitted to the Olympics and said: "We must organise quickly not to get left behind."



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Racing **GREG WOOD** Chepstow racecourse has al-

> "I honestly believe there is a National-type race in her," Mc-Court said yesterday, "whether it be the Welsh, the Midlands, or the big National if the ground came up soft. But then you've got to be bloody lucky to get to where you think your target is. Last year it was the race at Chepstow, we'd avoided this and that race and tried to avoid the handicapper. We thought we'd got it right, she got to the

ahead of the field at 10-1.

EXETER

12.50 Eleanora Muse

1.20 Jhal Frezi 1.50 Lively Knight

Flockton appeal fails Kenneth Richardson yesterday ed a challenge by Richardson lost an appeal against his con- and two associates, Colin Mathviction for masterminding one of the most famous swindles in racing history – the swapping of were guilty of conspiring to defraud bookmakers.

racing history - the swapping of two-year-old Flockton Grey for an almost identical three-yearold at Leicester in 1982. The "ringer" came in 20 lengths The Court of Appeal reject- £20,000 at the original trial.

HYPERION

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand, unshighing course. Sulf test of staming. Run-in of 250 yards.

Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddock £10; Silver Ring 55 (under-16s free). CAR PARK: £2 on rails; £2 members; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: M Pipe — 72 winners from 272 runners gives a success ratio of 26.5% and a loss to a 5.1 level stake of 5.10.55; Miss B Entight. — 29 winners, 85 runners, 34.1%, +558.50; P Hobbs — 23 winners, 121 runners, 19.1%, -520.48; Mrs J Better — 10 winners, 77 runners, 13.1%, +55.09.

-E20.43; Airs J Better — To winners, 77 runners, 12.174, 745.105.

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Denivorody — 33 winners, 135 rides, 24.4%, -83.56; D Bridgwater — 21 winners, 90 rides, 23.3%, +51.72; J Outorem — 30 winners, 74 rides, 27%, -50.41; A P McCoy — 17 winners, 90 rides, 18.5%, +511.20.

BLINERED FIRST THIS: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: None.

12.50 TRIPLEPRINT CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 2m 2f Penalty Value £2,157

BETTING: 9-4 Burlington Sem, 11-4 Urban Rig, 9-2 Time Leader, 5-1 Varen's Typhom, 6-1 Blassom Muse, 25-1 Madinn Rose, 33-1 Upban Rascal 1995: Hightonn Cavaler 4 9 5 / Hartis 14-1 GR Hodges) 10 an

1995; Sophism 6 11.7 Jemie Beres 11.2 (M Pipe) 9 ian Front GUIDE

Thoral GUIDE

THORAL FREZI was beginning to get the hang of things over femoes last season. He gave a reasonable account of himself over hundles at Stratford on his reappearance before being bogged down in similar company in the mud at Newton Albott and returns to chasing in the lowest grade on what seems a reasonable mark. With three runners, Martin Pipe containly means business. Aldymans was reluctant to put too much into it over hundles, so it can only be guessed at what he trinks of chasing, and the pick might be October Brew, who at least made some of the running here on his chasing debut in August after missing two seasons. Gentrower, talled off when fairing two out in a good race at Kampton after also being off for two seasons, has his sights lowered quite considerably. Permetal is also down in grade. He's religible and looks good sech-way, but the dengar could be former inteh point-to-pointer Castifecogner, who was tried over incoss in a good race at Newton Abott before an improved third in a Chepstow selling hundle.

Selections IHAL FREZI

1.50 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 2r Penalty Value £5,047

BETTRIC: 8-11 Squire Silk, 9-4 Lively Knight, 18-1 Wite West Wind, 12-1 Florr From Funny, 24-2 Guinda, 20-1 Purbeck Cavaller, Xino's Cross, 25-1 others 1995: Purbeck Pisce 7 11 0 C Uewallyn 3-1 (N Turston-Causes) 9 fân

ROBBIS PRODE (268) (Richard Weeks) C Pophern 6 11 0.

# AMAISS SQUIRES BILK (251) (Robert Option) A formed 7 (1) 0... # AMAISS SQUIRES BILK (251) (Robert Option) A formed 7 (1) 0... # AMAISS SQUIRES BILK (251) (AMAISS A FORMED IN THE STOPPING B 1) 0...

FF210-1 URBAN LILY (27) (C) GARS C J Cole) R Hodges 6 11 10
P40P-11 BURLINGTON SMA (N2) (29) (D) (Als Jacke Rep) A Hobbs 6 11 9
4SO-054 MARRIYS TYPHOON (43) (BIF) (Six Hodge Power) P Hobbs 5 10 12
00F-834 TIBLE (LIBURE (7) (Tible Big Tame Boys R Dubin 4 10 10
5221-64 ELEANGEA BURSE (25) (D) Triot Peoby Famel 6 10 6...
POP-OFP UPHAM RASCAL (20) (R E Borlesony D Geodode 5 10 0...
00065-0 MADAM ROSE (11) (Seemas Mullier) I Mulling 6 10 0...

STANCE RUNNERS: Barryben (3.20) has been sent 177 miles by W Brisbourne'

2.20 Orswell Lad 2.50 Wade Road

3.20 Beyond Our Reach

Richardson stood to gain £36,000 from the coup, but instead was given a nine-month suspended sentence and fined 

Hassis (6) B لـــــ

The jockey, who won the all. He is fit and well." SQUERE SILK, lear season's Newbury Tote Gold Trophy winner and Min in the Champion hardle and at Aistnee, has the make and shape of a chaser. He should be able to start off over fences with a with but mey not get the easy race connections have been footing for. Lively Knight put lest season's promising second to Golden Spirmer at Newbury to good use by beating Mister Drum at Humbington lest month, when he had Wild West Wind some way back in third. That's useful form, Mister Drum going to floor the odds on Wee Windy at the next meeting, Wild West Wind's also expected to come on approached to the third that the start of the

try and is capable of a good show.  Selection: SQUIRE SLK
2.20 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £4,192
1 2/468-54 SPUFFINGTON (CS) (Julian Copet) J Glifond 8 11 11
2 PRESEA CHEM SHELIMACH (217) BAILS S.A. Scottl N. Treiston-Dianes 10 11 10C Lieuchyn
3 11-1 ANDRE LAWAL (15) Dies Christopher Wester K Balley 7 11 10 Hir R Waldey (7)
4 1113-26 CARRYLOUGH (35) GER (T.) Whoten D Candolio 7 11 10R Dominoody
5 23204-1 BALLYEA BOY (22) (Denis Barryl D Nicholson 6 11 3
6 /1452/1 ORSWELL LAD (17) (RI M E Waght) P Hottle 7 11 2
7 15332/4- MR INVADER (377) 6/1 A Boddington) N Greeke 9 10 13
8 122/1-64 IQBOLE'S DELICAT (20) (C) (Caste Farm Stud) Miss H Knight 8 10 12
9 3331P-1 SPECIAL ACCOUNT (40) (C) (forly Foolio) C R Barwell 10 10 8
10 /1022/3- RED PARADE DK2 (387) (Russell J Peske) N Hawle 8 10 6
11 2335/24 ROCKY PARK (17) (BF) 84 & Mrs Tony Geslee) 6 Balding 10 10 3

BETING: 7-2 Bellyes Boy, 4-1 Andre Level, 5-1 Oracel Lad, 8-1 Special Account, Spuffington, 10-1 Gerrylough, 12-1 Gible Growlagh, Rocky Park, 14-1 others

1895; Harnell Lad 6 10 9 Mr R Nutral 5-4 (R Aired 15 ran FORM GUIDE

Philip Hobbs has lost no time upgrading ORSWELL LAID, game winner of a nowce handcap in testing conditions at Newton Abbot 17 days ago on his chesting debut. Hobbs places 
his horses well, and although it seems as if the seven-year-old has it to do on this faster 
ground, the Newton Abbot win was a good performance efter a season off and he may well 
have the necessary scope. Ballyes Boy also went straight late a hendicap for his fast attempt over langes and came again to pip Ardotoney Chief at Towcester. On the face of it 
that wearn't as good a performance as Dossell Lad's, but he's enother young horse with 
plemys of improvement in him. Ardotoney Chief is a good stone and a helf inferer to stablemess Carrylougit. All wearn't well with Gamylough at Bengor last time and she wasn't 
perspected with once her chance had gone. This genuine and consistent more had sparted 
the season by running second to the improved Larry's Lord at Strational and is guite capable of going close if back to her best. Andre Lavel is on a bit of a roll, even if it is spread 
over three seasons. Winner of his first four point-to-points in Ireland in 1995, he was unbettern in two runs over fances in this country last season and reoppeared to best Besurepaire at Wincarron lest month. So far the form doesn't amount to sit that much, but you 
rain bester at Towcester than he had here first time out.

Selection: ORSWELL LAD

	1985: Hightown Caveller 4 9 5 / Harts 14-1 R Hodgest 10 an FORM GUIDE.  TORME LEADIER has been showing steady improvement with racing. He came from a long way back when running on into third behind the unbeaten indrapura and Lats Be Frank (winner buice since) over two miles at Wordester last month and didn't get home after holding every chance at the second lest behind Allow over 2m5f at Newbury on Fritay. Today's tip should be ideal and his inder takes off a handy 9th. Urban Lify beat subsequent winner Yet.	over three Seasons. Winner of his final four point-to-points in lieland in 1995, he was un- beaten in two runs over tences in this country lest season and reoppeared to beat Seau- repeire at Winnermon lest month. So far the form doesn't amount to sit that much, but cannot knock a house that keeps winning and he'll be a tough nut to crack. Spelfington ran bester at Towcester than he had here first time out. Selection: ORSWELL LAD
	Again in a Newton Abbot seler run in testing conditions 10 days ago. She has won here in better company, though off a rating 17th lower, and it looks as if she is only pleting class.	2.50 EBF TRIPLEPRINT 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS D) £4,600 2m 2f Peneity Value £4,020
ı	That must not be the case with Burillagton Sann. The eight-year-old showed much-improved	1 0-0P FAIR HAUL (Sp (Mrs G.A. Roberts) R Frost 5 (11.0
	form when dropped into a setter at Fortwell in October, coming home eight lengths clear despite a bad mistake three out nearly putting him out of the race. He won a Ludiow set-	2 50- FLANCEY WOODD (244) Date D A La Trobe) R Bucker \$ 11 0
	er even easier last month and stepping up in grade won't stop him going close to com- pleting the hat-trick, Eleanora Muse was runner-up three times last season, once over this	4 MASTER BONESER (D.R. Feer) R. Aber 5 11 0 J. Osborne 5 30- MYLINK (321) (S.E. Constitute) D. Nicholson 6 11 0 A. Magaire
ı	course, and was having her first run in aimost six months when leading until the leat at Win-	6 04/04P-0 PALLADIUM NOV (17) (Paladium Ltd) Mis J Retter 6 51 0
	canton 15 days ago. She'll be straighter this time and shouldn't be far away.  Selection: TIME LEADER	7 21 QUINN EAGLE (FR) (16) (B A Nilperck) M Pipe 4 11 0 A P McCoy 8 6401-00 SIR DANTE (LG) (Peer R Willy) R Rove 5 11 0 D 0*Sulfivan
İ		9 31- THE LAND AGENT (237) Ohrs Heather Bare) J Muline 5 11 0S Carran
Ì	1.20 BONUSPRINT SELLING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 6) £3,000 added 2m 2f Penalty Value £2,489	10 1.2 WADE ROAD (27) (89) Card Chebeck Mass H Weight 5 11 0
	1 199 TAPAGEUR DOU BY C Post M Plot 11 12 0	12 0 SEEREP (40) (Deign Molers) R Arer 5 10 9 C Lievellys
	2 5331/F GLENTOWER (30) (Breviess Arms Recong Club) C Pophorn 8 11 9	ESTITION: 7-4 Wade Road, 9-4 Quini Engle, 5-1 Mydels, 7-1 The Land Agent, 8-1 Str Deute, 14-1

- 12 decand 
BETTIME: 7-4 Wade Bond, 9-4 Quini Engin, 5-1 Mylain, 7-1 The Land Agent, 8-1 Sir Dunte, 14-1
Pallindium Bory, 16-1 others
1995: High Leare 5 11 0 J A McCardy 18-1 (0 Shenood) 18van
PORM GUIDE

WADE ROAD locked the business when besting 23 others hard held in a bumper at Ascot in April and may have been just short of his best after seven months off when failing by a length to give Mr hadrifham 7 bit in similar company at Sandown on his reappearance. This smart prospect, a half-brother to Three Philosophers among others, is expected to make a whinting start over huntless, Quini Bagie and The Land Agent (in particular) have also won NH Flet racts at style and should make the grade over huntless, while improvement can be expected from Mylfiels, the unplaced joint-favourite when the Land Agent was third to Wade Road's stablemate Colonel Elszer at Kempton in January.

Selection: WADE ROAD

3.20 BONUSPRENT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 2f Penalty Value £2,175
1 13123F. FIRST CENTURY (357) IC: (Marthy Mour Auctors) B Paling 7 11, 11
2 BOLAZ-2 BEYOND OUR REACH (8) (No P A Bradshew) R Hodges 8 11 9
3 P212R-1 BARRYBEN (18) (Mrs May Brishourne) W Brishourne 7 11.8
4 113-004 potentions desait (6) (Nepton Pipe Racing Club) M. Pipe 4 11.7
5 25/1P-1 REFERRES (13) (Mas S Stumbers) J Old 7 11 7
6 110-240 THE BLACK MONK (102) (CD) (Marrin Pipe Reong Cath) M Pipe & 11 0 & Moore (7)
7 432-301 HARDSON (19) (Burrow Recing) B R Marray 4 10 13 D Salter (5)
8 111/PS4 PONTAINEROUSE (247) (May Yorn S Tipper) G Beilding 6 10 8
9 OFFICIAL CHASSIC PAL (HS4) (553) (P C Tox) N R Mitchell 5 10 1
10 OP-2184 EMBLEY BURY (27) (Mrs. Heasther Bene) J Moders 8 10 0
11 42455-0 WOMM (SEPLE (16) (Dens), Carie) K Bishop 5 10 0
= 11 deciered =
Assistance and the Total handless make a facility flore fact 12th Indian Tennets Cot 7th

Minimum weight: 10st. True handlesp weighte: Embley Bury 9st 13to, Indian Temple 9st 18ET199st 7-2 Headlesp, 4-2 Lettheles, 9-2 Barryhea, 5-1 Beyond Our Reach, 18-1 Down Perst Century, Pontainorthage, 13-1 others 1996: Spring Saint 6 11 8 C Maude 4-1 (Mag C Hoter) 15 ran

1996: Spring Saint 8 11 8 C Maude 4-1 (Miss C Horier) 15 am FORM CAUDE.

JEFFERIES was having his first outing since being pulsed up at Ayr in April when making all to win essang up from Dominos Ring over Towester's sith two miles 13 days ago. This being only his fifth run over hurdles he's Baely to have more improvement in him and he may be able to handle a 7th rise in the weights. Barrybon is also up 7th for his three-length delect of subsequent without Gondon Tonic over an extra two and a helf intrings at Lecester 18 days ago, his first run since certy January. The shorter trip shouldern to a problem on this stiff course, though the fact that he has an extra 19th to shoulder might, Handless made up for what looked an unfully thrift behind Show Board over an extra furiong here first time out this season when coming from a seemingly impossible position to catch the flagging Robert's Toy close home at Chelenham. With third-placed Hay Dance going on to beat Rosencrafit at Teurition the form seems more then reasonable, Fontaincronagie, although he has yet to fulfil the potential shown in bumpers in ireland has sensons ago, could well handloopped, though the likelihood is that Bayonal Our Reachi's sold form will make him more of a threat.

Selection: JEFFERES

#### LINGFIELD

12.10: 1. TATIKA G Milligari 6-4 fair; 2. Bendion 15-2; 3. Double Billie 9-1. 10 ran. 5. 4. (G Wateg) Tota: 12-20; £1.60, £2-60, £2-20. Dual Forecast: £6-20. Computer Straight Forecast: £1-29. This: £18.10. 12-40: 1. SHAFT (A Clark) 16-1: 2. Never Think Twices 15-2; 3. River Salace 20-1. 13 ran. 5-2 tax invocation: ni. 4, U Clark) 16-1: 2. Never Think Twices 15-2; 3. River Salace 20-1. 13 ran. 5-2 tax invocation: ni. 4, U Clark) 16-1: 2. Never Think Twices 15-2; 3. River Salace 20-1. 13 ran. 5-2 tax invocation: ni. 4, U Clark) 17-1: 2. Never Salace 20-1: 1. 10: 1. SCESSOR RIDGE (S Sanders) 5-1: 2. Neter 7-1: 3. Neptor Star 6-1: 9 ran. 1-1: 3. Neptor Star 6-1: 9 ran. 5-2 tax (Clark) 1. 11/1. (J Bridger). Tota: £7-30: £2-30, £2-70. DP: £18.10. CSF: £35-29. Titcser: £194.10. Thos £18.10. CSF: £35-29. Titcser: £194.10. Thos £194.10. E194.10. E194.1

RACING RESULTS £5.71 Trick £12.00. NRt Cool Fire. 2.40: 1. URSA MAJOR (M Wigham) 15-8; 2. Share Delight 7-4 for; 3. Biothetic Per-ibal 20-1. 11 ran. 5, 1%. [P. Kelevary). Total: 52:70; E. 60, EL 20, EL 10. Dr. 62:90. CSF. £5.58. This: £19.40. Non Runner: Churchil's

3.10: 1. HALBERT (P McCabe) 20-1; 2. 3.10: 1. HALBERT (P McCabe) 20-1; 2. Mystery Metchies 6-1; 3. Costone-C 10-1. 12 cm. 100-30 for Tachgerstis. ½, nd. P Burgyre). Tota: £19-90; £3-10, £1.70, £3-50. Df: £110.90. USF: £104-56. Thesa: £80.70. Tric: £120.20. Mass Pedapoties (T-1) withdrawn nor under orders; Rule 4 applies ell bets deduction 10p in the pound. 3.40: 1. Filial. (Mass J. Allson) 8-1; 2. Gen-eral Haven 7-1; 3. Don't Doop Bourks 11-2. 9 run, 5-2 fav Colosse. 7, 3½. (B Mechan). Toka: £11.20; £3.80, £2.10,

2.10: 1. QUEEN OF ALL BROS (A Daly)
11-4; 2. Night Wisk evers far, 3. Barows
Valley 10-1. 8 ran. 5. 3. (R Boss). Tota:
14.50: £1.10, £1.30, £1.60, DF: £4.50, CSP.
Pacepot: £138.20, Quadpot: £4.30. Piecepot: £118.20. Quadpot: £4.30. Place 6: £51.97. Piece 5: £30.10. WINDSOR

12.30: 1. DANEGOLD (R Hughes) 3-1 fav; 2. Sallop 10-1; 3. Fally Knight 7-2. 15 ran. 7, hd. (M Chanton). Total: £4.50; £2.20. £3.40, £1.10, Duel Forecast: £16.10. CSP: £35.15. Thot: £32.30. 1.00: 1. SEVERN GALE (K Alpuni 7-1; 2. Sonsonal Spiendour 9-2; 3. Pedil-lathements 1.6-1. 7 ro. 15.8 if the licen-2. Seasonal Spiendour 9-2; 3. Pedal-tothemetral 14-1. 7 ran. 15-8 Jt fav Herni-etta Howard (Arth). 1½, 1½, 1/4 Herni-£12.10; £2.50, £2.40. DF: £21.40. GSF: 255.04

2.00: 1. PROTON (A P MCCpy) 7-1: 2. Desert Green 15-8 tev; 2. Eartheship Brace 7-2. 14 res. 9, 18. (R Alghrus). Tota: 57-80; 51-40, 51-30, 51-80. Duel Forecan: 66.00. CSP. 519-21. This: 52.70, 2.30: 1. ZEREDAR (C O'Doyes) 4-5 fax; 2. Dear Do 9-4; 3. Who's To Say 9-2. 4 res. 8, 12. (K Balley). Tota: 51-80. DF: 51-50. CSP: 63.008. 3.00: 1. ACT OF PARLIAMENT (M. R. Walinj 100-30; 2. Rex To The Rescue 6-1; 3. Coolee 4-1. 7 mm, 11-4 fav Wildra (4th). 2, 6. IK Belleyj, Totac £3.20; £2.00, £1.60. DF: £9.00. CSF: £21.48. DP: £9.00. CSP: £21.48.
3.80: 1. LETS BE FRANK (M.A. Forgersky)
5-2 fav; 2. Rachaet's Owen 12-1; 3. Relative Chance 7-2. 13 ran. 2½, 11. (Noël 1 Chance), Totac £4.60; £1.40, £4.40, £1.30.
DF: £32.80. CSP: £33.57. Thrast: £102.78.
Titer £31.20.

## English clubs learn their European lessons

English football turns back to the repurcussions of which led to weekend bolstered by the rare satisfaction of knowing horizons

will be widened again in March. Manchester United's 2-0 win over Rapid Vienna in Austria on Wednesday night enabled them to join Liverpool and Newcastle in a European quarter-final United will play Porto in the Champions Cup while Liverpool and Newcastle will discover their opponents when the Cup-winners' Cup and Uefa Cup draws are made next Wednesday.

Not since the 1984-85 season, when Everton, Liverpool, Tot-tenham and Manchester United all survived the autumn cull, has the English game retained a post-Christmas interest in all three European competitions.

That season will be forever scarred by the tragedy of Heysel,

English clubs being banned from Europe for five years. The footballing impact of that ban became clear only when it was lifted. In the six subsequent seasons the English game provided just seven quarter-finalists – none in the stigious Champions' Cup. Even Belgium managed nine, while Italy produced 31.

It now appears that English chibs have caught up - at least to the extent where they are competitive. Whether either of the Uniteds go on to win remains in doubt. Liverpool seem the best bet, but the Cup-Winners' Cup is the weakest competition (it produced five of the seven English quarter-finalists and one winner, Arsenal, in 1994).

Manchester United speak confidently of hitting their best form in the spring, but they still Manchester United's Champions' League success highlights the progress of Premiership clubs. Glenn Moore reports

one of their six qualifying games; United lost three. Martin Edwards, the United chairman, confirmed yesterday that money was available to strengthen the side. "It is up to the manager - we are more than capable of supporting him," Edwards said. "We don't bud-get for cup success so anything

we get from it is a bonus."
Victory on Wednesday was worth at least £3.5m to United. The three points were worth £500,000 each, there was a £1.2m bonus for qualifying and the home tie with Porto will realise about £800,000 in gate receipts. opponents on Sunday, can only dream of such figures.

However, having the money is one thing, spending it anoth-er entirely. United can add up to two players to their European squad but they must be signed by 15 January and must not have played in any European com-petition this season. That rules out Barcelona's Nadal and Ronaldo, Milan's George Weah, and many other leading players but not Fabrizio Ravanelli.

In the light of Wednesday's injury list, Alex Ferguson may wish to spend immediately. United returned to Manchester Air-

have a daunting task. Like Ju-ventus, Porto won five and drew West Ham, United's Premiership limping. Keane, it emerged, had limping. Keane, it emerged, had 19 stitches in a deep cut. Inserting them took nearly an hour. Butt has bruising to his knee.

Neville a hamstring strain. Both could be fit for Sunday. Yet, with Phil Neville and Andy Cole already injured, Romy Johnsen suffering from flu and Gary Pal-lister still fresh from surgery, United's resources are stretched. Though those players should

be fit by March, there will surely be new injuries. Suspensions are also becoming a danger. Six United players picked up yellow cards in qualifying and Uefa has resisted suggestions to clean the slate for the quarter-finals.

and Liverpool has a side benefit which one of the trio could well enjoy. Eight countries, chosen through "co-efficients" based on the last five years in Europe, will have two entrants in next season's Champions' League. Eng-land are ranked seventh and faced slipping down the table be-cause Manchester United's 1992 Cup-Winners' Cup triumph ceases to count after this season. Now they should retain their place (though, given ITV's financial

muscle, the formula would probably have been changed if not). While ITV was relieved to see United progress, Italian televi-sion's biggest mogul, Silvio Berlusconi, was shattered by Rosenborg Trondheim's conquest of his Milan team. The Norwegians upset the mouthwatering (and lucrative) quarterfinal pairing of Juventus and

Milan. Nor were the Milanese fans impressed: Milan were imprisoned in San Siro until after midnight and their team coach was stoned when they finally emerged despite having a police escort. The Rosenborg bus had earlier left to applause.

Milan's exit could mean Weah's much-predicted move to Arsenal does come about, and much sooner than expected. It could also lead to Roberto Baggio joining the Premiership. He is one Milan player who would not have welcomed Arrigio Sacchi's arrival. Sacchi dropped Baggio from the national side and his substitution of Baggio at half-time on Wednesday could be ald the Divine Ponytail's departure. Baggio, 30 in February, may well be tempted by the Premiership's

Rangers may face a short summer

Rangers' top players are facing a close-season break of barely a fortnight next summer if they succeed in landing another at-tempt at the Champions League. The Ibrox manager. Walter Smith, yesterday spuke out about the extraordinary demands made on British players after another dismal Euro-

pean campaign. While he did not offer too many games as an excuse for a fifth defeat in six Champions' League matches - 2-1 at Auxerre on Wednesday - Smith believes no other sport expects top performers to peak so fre-quently. If, and Smith stressed "if", Rangers win the Scottish title for the ninth successive year in May to equal Celtic's record they are likely to face two Champions' League preliminary rounds.

Scotland's recent record in Europe is such that it looks odds-on that Uefa's co-efficient table will condemn the champions to that fate prior to the lucrative group stages. The first leg of the first round is scheduled for 23 July, offering a massive headache for either Glasgow club. Scotland's last World Cup qualifier this season is due in Belarus on 7 June, so there would be just six weeks to cram in a break and pre-season training for the international players.

Rangers scored only five goals in their six Champions' League games, conceding 13 and collecting just a single £500,000 Uefa win bonus to add to ticket, television, advertising and other income.

EUROPEAN CUP Quarter-finals: 2 Borussa Dommind y Ausene; 2 Manchester United y Porto: 3 Apa y Atlebeo Madrid; 4 Rusenborg and legs 19 Marchi. Se





## The City critics have Lee on the back foot

**GUY HODGSON** 

There were times when Francis Lee had the care-ridden look of Nicky Summerbee for swearing a man sitting on a keg of gunpowder. Something might go off, and it was not hard to imagine who the splattered vic- looking thoroughly fed up. tim would be. Being the chairman of Manchester City has never been easy – yesterday it

It was the club's annual meeting at Maine Road and for PLC you could read Plenty of Local Criticism. Words were bandied about like "unhappy" and "depressing" - and those were just the ones that Lee used. The smaller shareholders were about as seething as you would expect from innocent partners in a football disaster which sees a club which likes to regard itself as "big" in the First Division relegation zone and £26m in debt.

There was good news, a rights issue that will provide £10m for transfers and increase the shareholding of "white knights" Stephen Boler and John Wardle but, if that was designed to deflect the fire, then City's powerbrokers were disappointed. "What we see on the pitch is a said by way of an initial hand-

disgrace", one man said. Another asked: "When are we gong to get a manager?" To cap it all, one supporter reported at the crowd. Lee, who promise to fine the player if the allegation was true, was by this time

the North Stand are blocked," he said, trying to spread the blame, "or if Andy Dibble drops the ball. The tabloids have it that everything is Francis Lee's decision but decisions are made at board level. We're a democratic club."

This seemed to strike a chord and his mistake was to expand the theme to lambast wealthy detractors who have not followed up criticism with invest-ment. "We have a lot of people who say they want to put money into the club but when it comes to it they will not put money where their mouth is."

Elliot Rashman, the manager of the pop group Simply Red, whom Lee numbered amongst this group, counter-attacked in a manner the players would do well to emulate. "You have made ridiculous decisions." he

grenade, "like allowing managers to buy players three days before they are sacked. You have brought the club to the "The people who made this

it right. Alan Ball [the manager who took City down from the Premiership in May] was a disgrace. You might not think so, but everyone else does." Lee kept his own counsel

about that, although 24 hours after committing his long-term future to the club the non-stop criticism seemed to be hitting home. "Believe me," he said, "Tm as upset as you are. I don't get much pleasure going to football matches these days and I certainly didn't enjoy 25,000 Wolves fans taunting me last weekend. All I can promise is to give it my best endeavours and if that's not good enough we might have to look

at it in 12 months. And what will the club's finances be like if City get relegated this season? "I wouldn't know," Lee replied, "because I'd have jumped off the stand." Judging by yesterday's meeting, he will not be alone.

a long way to go if he is to match the achieve-

ments of some of his illustrious

predecessors in the York Street

Both Howard Wilkinson and club are the fans and they are Jim Smith served apprenticeentitled to criticise until you get ships in their profession by managing Boston United, who were ners-up to Bamber Bridge, one of the country's leading non-League clubs in the 1970s - they won the Northern Premier League on four occasions before the formation of what is now the

GM Vauxhall Conference. Fee's main target is to take the club, known as the Pilgrims, back into the Conference, from which they were relegated in 1993 after an unbroken 14year stay since its formation. He believes, though, that success in the FA Cup, in which they travel to Chester City for a secondround tie tomorrow, will be a helo rather than a hindrance to

their League campaign.
"The Cup is a bonus," Fee said yesterday. "It won't last forever, but it gets people motivated. Everyone is enthusiastic and looking forward to our day out in Chester, but the League is what really matters." Fee feels the confidence gen-

erated by FA Cup success can

#### Greg Fee, Boston Unit-ed's player-manager, has the UniBond (Northern Prethe challengers to mier) League, in which they occupy fifth place in the Premier

Boston the sleeping giant-killers

leaders, Hyde United, with three perate to go up this season be-Boston were beaten by Wealdcause of what happened last term, when they finished as run-

now the manager of Derby

ference. John Blackwell, the ciub's secretary, admits the responsibility for the administrative error, but in every other way he has served the club admirably since being brought to Boston as trainer by Jim

Division, seven points behind the

games in hand. Boston are des-

whose ground was deemed not

good enough for the Conference.

moted - but for the fact that they

missed the deadline for submit-

ting their accounts to the Con-

Boston would have been pro-

Smith in the early 70s. Blackwell has been secretary since 1978 and is now also the full-time general manager, safety officer and programme editor. He has taken charge of off-field preparations for the trip to Chester and said yesterday that the atmosphere Howard Wilkinson (left) and pla

Chester City in the second round

stone in the FA Trophy final. Smith - the "Bald Eagle" - is

position for the Lincolnshire club's two best FA Cup results. In 1955, when Derby were in the Third Division North, Boston won 6-1 at the Baseball Ground, which still stands as the record

at the club is "as good as Jim Smith (right) in their playing di Wembley in 1985", when Boston United in the 1971-72 season

against a League side in the Cup. Derby were a First Division club when Boston next arrived at the Baseball Ground, for a third-round tie in 1974. Dave Mackay, who was to shepherd the Rams to their second League title of the decade the following season, was aghast to

to a 0-0 draw on their own turf. Reality returned in the replay, however, when an Archie Gemmill hat-trick helped Derby to a 6-1 win at York Street.

see his star-studded team held

Since then, Boston have beaten only one League club in the Cup - Crewe in 1982 - so Chester will be aware that another prize for the Pilgrims is perhaps overdue. One player keen to do well against Kevin Ratcliffe's side is Leroy Chambers, scorer of two goals in Boston's fine 3-0 win over the Conference team Morecambe in the first round. who was released by

Chester in the summer. Boston's two most experienced former League layers are Chris Withe, the 33-year-old brother of the former England centre-forward Peter Withe,

win by a non-League team who played over 400 games for Newcastle, Bradford City, Notts County, Bury, Mansfield and Shrewsbury, and the playermanager himself.

Fee began his career with Bradford City but dropped down in to the non-League game with Kettering and then. in 1987, Boston, Sheffield Wednesday paid £25,000 to give him a second chance of League football a year later, and he went on to make almost 100 appearances for the Hilisborough club. After a spell with Mansfield, he returned to Boston in 1993 and replaced another former Wednesday defender, Mel Sterland,

as manager last summer. "This is a big job in non-, League circles," Fee, who is also employed by BP as a marketing executive, said. He knows that he can launch his reputation as a manager with success against Chester, but he is not changing his normal routine. "We'll play our normal game" he said. "We've got some good players
-we've had lots of scouts watching us - and I just hope the players with potential don't under-perform. We're not going there to be rolled over. Wilkinson and Smith are prob-

With talk like that, Messrs ably proud of him already.

#### Ruddles County Riddles. No. 13. Pub Challenge.

For Peter Barnsworthy it

was a dream come true. He had a voucher for unlimited

won the 1996 Hertfordshire Pub Quiz Championskip after six graelling rounds.

But his victory was by no means final. He had vet to claim the prize.

He was placed in the

bar of the Quoen's Head Pub ia Westcott. There were

two doors, each leading to

of the doors, lay the prize,

access to the love of his life -Ruddles County.

The challenge was set. He did not know behind

which door (they were marked 1 and 2) lay which

prize. Beside each door stood a barmen to help him

decide which door to choose. However, the catch was

been instructed to lie, but Peter did set know which.

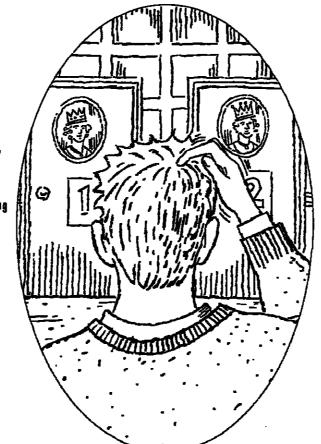
Peter stepped forward, asked one of the men a question, and upon bearing

his answer confidently strode through doer 1 to claim his youcher.

Peter is of course too basy to tell as how he worked out which door to

choose. De you know how

that one of the barmon had he worked it out?



#### **Netherlands**

A night-club complex which hosts the likes of El Weirdo Jazz Quartet and Dr Doom has gone to court to stop its name being used by the sparkling new stadium that is home to Ajax.

The former European champions were told this week that they could no longer call their stadium the Amsterdam Arena. The venue was opened with great publicity in August but an Amsterdam court heard that a youth hostel and a night club complex had claimed the Arena title some four years ago. In a civil lawsuit, the Village Company argued it had run the

Arena budget 600-bed hotel, case and music hall complex since 1992. It complained that, since the Arena's opening, it had received deliveries and bills for the new stadium. While Ajax have had to refund some season-ticket holders who were given seats with

a poor view, the "other" Are-

na has been inundated with de-

mands for tickets for top events at the new stadium. An Amsterdam Arena spokesman said they had no plans yet to rename the stadium, despite the threat of a 5,000. guilders (about £1,800) per day fine which is due to come into force in February.

"The judgment was a sur-prise," the spokesman said. "Changing the name would be an enormously costly process, and we're not considering it just at the moment."



#### around the world

The Asian Cup, which started this week in the United Arab Emirates, is providing traq with one of their rare opportunities to compete in the international football arena. They have, however, been placed in a first-round group alongside some politically sen-

sitive opponents.
In their first Group B fixture yesterday, Iraq beat Iran 2-1. They must also play Saudi Arabia and Thailand, the outsiders (in every sense). Kuwait, who are in Group A, have said they will withdraw rather than play Iraq in the later stages.

The Asian Cup is Iraq's first major international competition since the United Nations imposed sanctions on the Bughdad government for its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The sanctions ban air travel to Iraq, and few international teams have made the arduous 12-hour road journey from Amman, in Jordan, to Baghdad to play against the Iraqis. The

sanctions, which stopped Iraq's oil exports, have also made virtually everything from medicine to food too expensive for many

Iraqis.
"The embargo has affected us severely, too," said Nameer Abdul Kareem of the Iraqi Football Association. "Our problems range from not get-ting balls and uniforms due to cash shortages, to not being able to hone our skills against

other foreign teams."

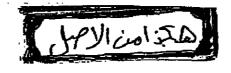
Iraq's only preparation for
the Asian Cup was a 10-day
training session in Romania more than a month ago, and another eight-day spell in Genoa last month. There, the Iraqis beat the Italian Serie A side Sampdoria 1-0, Expenses for both ventures were paid for by wealthy Iraque living abroad.

#### Bosnia.

The players of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia are enjoying their first taste of international football. After wins over Italy, in a friendly, and Slovenia in a World Cup qualifier in their last two games, the Bosnians are now proparing to face Brazil.

Renaldo and Giovanni, both of Barcelona, will be part of the Brazilian squad called up to face Bosnia. The friendly, on 18 December, will be played in an exone location: the Amazonian city of Manaus. Truly a long way from Sarajevo.

Rupert Metcalf



## Hall takes first step towards exit from game

Rugby Union DAVID LLEWELLYN

wcastle's owner. Sir John Hall, was last night rumoured to have resigned from English Second Division Rugby Ltd. Sir John, a vehement critic of the Rugby Football Union during the year-long wrangling for autonomy between English Professional Rugby Union Clubs and Twickenham, is believed to be disillusioned with the leading clubs' willingness to accede

ning of the game. With Newcastle left in apparent isolation, with the remaining clubs in the top two divisions indicating that they want to stay under the aegis of the RFU, Sir John's decision to step down is seen as a move on his part to get out of rugby altogether.

The majority of the clubs are now saying that they feel it makes more sense to work for change from within the RFU. But Sir John has been adamant throughout the dispute that

their finances. Last month Sir John was reported to have contacted the European Court of Justice to help establish Newcastle's legal rights to negotiate their own television deal, independently of the RFU or any other governing body. Those rights, maintained Sir John. were non-negotiable.

Sir John was one of two representatives of ESDR on the Epruc board. The other, Bedford's Steve O'Neill, is also believed to have resigned.

Epruc met early yesterday to discuss the agreement the top 24 clubs are being asked to sign by the RFU. Newcastle are not expected to be a party to such an agreement. Epruc also an-Robin Foster (Wakefield). nounced their representatives on Epruc also approved, subject the new governing body, New-co, where the running of the club

sentatives, Twickenham two. Sir John's stand until recently, Epruc yesterday elected the following to sit on the board of yesterday forged a hitherto unthinkable liaison with Wigan Newco: from the First Division, Donald Kerr (Harlequins), Pe-Rugby League club. The clubs

will be shared with the

RFU. The clubs have six repre-

ter Wheeler (Leicester), Ian McGeechan (Northampton), Charles Levison (Wasps); and from the Second Division, Symon Elliott (Richmond) and

to a couple of last-minute details. their intended agreement with the RFU which should produce a signed deal late next week. Wasps, who had been backing plan a playing link which would involve freedom of movement for players between them.

They are all professionals and will have the capacity to play throughout the year and max imise their earnings for what is a comparatively short career at the top level," the Wasps chief executive, Geoff Huckstep, said before acknowledging: "There are obvious difficulties because the RL season runs from February until well into the auturn." Gary Connolly is out of Har-

lequins' Courage League match

at Bath tomorrow. Connolly is still recovering from a minor knee operation. His place in the centre alongside Will Carling goes to Peter Mensah.

The lock Andy Reed has been called into Scotland's squad for the match against Italy at Murrayfield on 14 December. Reed, who joined Wasps from Bath this season, has been out with a back injury since the start of 1995. The Northampton prop Mattie Stewart has also been selected. Derrick Patterson replaces injured

scrum-half Gary Armstrong.

#### Hamed top of Warren's big bill

Naseem Hamed will attempt to become a double champion on a night of four world title fights at London Arena on 8 February The 22-year-old unbeaten

holder of the World Boxing Organisation featherweight belt will meet the 32-year-old American Tom Johnson, the international Boxing Federation champion and a man regarded as the best in the division. Johnson has won 44 of his 47 contests and will be making the 12th defence of the title he won

nearly four years ago.

Steve Collins, who punched Nigel Benn into retirement last month, defends his WBO supermiddleweight title against an opponent to be named next week. when a challenger for Robin Reid's first defence of the World Boxing Council super-mid-dleweight title will also be named. The fourth fight involves the British champion, Mickey Cant-well, who challenges the South African Jake Matlala for the WBO light-flyweight title.

The show is costing £5.5m to stage at the 12,500 capacity London Arena, with top tickets costing £250 each. The promoter Frank Warren said: "It is the most expensive I have ever put together."

Warren admitted he would like to have returned to the Nynex Arena in Manchester where he staged last month's triple world title fight bill, but

the venue was booked. Hamed, whose aim is to hold all four versions of the title said: "I have all the respect in the world for Johnson. He is the No 1, but that respect will fly out of the window in the ring.

#### **Problems** ignored by Parlier

Salling STUART ALEXANDER

Yves Parlier was racing under bare poles but still making progress at 22 knots in the southern ocean yesterday as the leaders in the Vendée Globe non-stop singlehanded round the world race were hit by storms well south of the Cape of Good Kerguelen Islands turning point. Parlier is now 370 miles behind Christophe Augin and falling further behind as he trics to repair his mainsail. No such problems for Britain's Pete Goss, the only competitor with a 50footer, but now eighth with six 60-footers behind him, including

the former leader Isabelle Antissier, who is in Cape Town fitting a new starboard rudder. Going the other way and moving down to nearly 60 degrees south, enjoying nearly 20 hours of daylight but bitterly cold, the 14 boats in the BT Challenge are still led by Andy Hindley in Save the Children, who has an 11mile advantage over Merfyn Owen in Global Teamwork.

## **Boro seek** inquiry on **Emerson**

Football

Middlesbrough are to ask the Football Association to request an investigation by football's world governing body, Fifa, into a "hidden agenda" surrounding Emerson's behaviour.

The £4m Brazilian midfielder, who signed a four-year contract in May, has gone missing three times and Boro are waiting for him to return from his latest trip back home.

The finger is being pointed pointing at Barcelona, with the Premiership club claiming they have orchestrated a campaign to lure the player away.

There is no bad blood be-

tween Middlesbrough and Emerson," Keith Lamb, the Boro chief executive, said. "He has told us on numerous

occasions that he is happy and nts to play football but there y ats to play tootball but there has been a hidden agenda to move him away from the club." However, if Barcelona are relying on Boro cutting their losses on Emerson, they will be disappointed. "People in Spain are amazed that Middlesbrough can stand up to Barcelona, but we won't be bullied by some of the alleged larger clubs in Europe, Lamb said. "Barcelona

will not get Emerson but they might get a load of trouble. The FA are well aware of what has been going on and are totally supportive of our actions and when the dust settles we want the FA to ask Fifa to car-

signing of the £2.6m Norwegian

striker Steffen Iversen from

Rosenborg Trondheim yesterday

- and doubled their celebrations

by announcing that their goal-

Keeper Ian Walker had agreed

Iversen, who has been tracked

by Spurs for more than eight

months, helped Rosenborg pull

off an outstanding 2-1 victory at

Milan in the Champions'

League on Wednesday, but his

signing had already been made

and his appearance yesterday at

the Tottenham training ground

was for a routine medical ex-

Iversen, who will be available

a new five-year contract.

the whole affair.
"Middlesbrough football club is bigger than any individual. There can only be one winner in this and one loser. We've told Emerson that if he's got a football future it's on Teesside. If he doesn't want to play football he can go and sit on a beach in Brazil or sit on a quay in Barcelona and watch the ships go by. What he can't do is play football for anyone else."

Emerson will not play at Leeds tomorrow even if he returns to Middlesbrough today. 'We have to make a firm stand because any players with a few problems could kick up a

fuss for a move." Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, said. Emerson laid bare his problems in a Portuguese newspaper. "I am starting to live a drama," he said. "My wife is ill. She has some difficulties. She doesn't

like Middlesbrough as she feels it is too cold. I find it hard to concentrate on football as my wife is unhappy at the thought of living in Middlesbrough." Nottingham Forest have quashed speculation that they will be selling Ian Woan to Tottenham for £3m. Forest were

a pressing deadline to pay back £2m to their bankers. Birmingham have turned down an offer from Bolton for Mike Newell, the striker they signed for £775,000 from Blackburn last summer.

lversen arrives at Spurs

reported to be ready to offload

Woan to enable them to meet

#### disciplined over protest

Lara will be

Brian Lara is to be disciplined for storming into the Australian dressing room to protest against his dismissal in the second Test week. The West Indies man-Tottenham at last completed the immediately, said: "Tottenham agement have apologised for were the only club that made an acceptable offer for me and I Lara's heated outburst during a confrontion with the Australian am hopeful I have made the coach. Geoff Marsh, at the Svdney Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

right choice coming here." The powerful 6ft 2in striker who has scored 13 goals in 17 Under-21 appearances for Norway, said: "What helped me decide to come to England and especially Tottenham is that my friend Espen Bardsen is already with the club as their re-

serve goalkeeper." Gerry Francis, the Spurs manager, said: "We have got the all-clear to play him at Coventry on Saturday. All the paperwork is done, I am told, and there should be no problem."

## **England A rescued by Giles**

MYLES HODGSON

reports from Sydney New South Wales 243-6 England A 244-8 England win by two wickets

for the season. Street fell on a steep face, tearing the anterior cruciate ligament of her left knee

England A maintained their unbeaten tour run with another dramatic triumph in the first of their two one-day matches with New South Wales at the SCG "I think he realises he stepped vesterdav. out of line and we'll deal with that The tourists seemed set for

in-house. We have ways of doing certain defeat after Adam Holit," the tour manager. Clive lioake was run out following a Lloyd, said. "Brian is vice-captain. misunderstanding with Ashley Giles, leaving England struggling on 162 for 7 with no recognised and has to play by the rules."

Lara was dismissed for one batsmen to come and chasing a when he edged a catch to wicketkeeper Ian Healy on the final day. Healy tumbled forward to take the catch but television re-

victory target of 244. But, like their similarly amazing wins over South Australia plays raised doubt as to whether and Victoria, they again snatched victory against the odds with Giles hitting an unthe ball carried. Lara was also fined for misconduct on the West Indies' tour of England last year. beaten 39 off as many deliver-

ies to claim a two-wicket triumph with two balls remaining. Glenn Chapple began the march to victory with a quick-

Picabo Street, the defending women's World Cup downhill champion, practises at Vail, Colorado, prior to the crash which put her out of action

fire 22 but when he was run out attempting a third run, Engearea to ena with him. But Giles forged an rounder Shane Lee helped New

Sri Lanka approach Lamb Alian Lamb, the former Eng- who, together with Ian Botham land batsman, is being targeted by Sri Lanka to run their in-- lost a costly libel case against

ternational sides. The 42-year-old, who retired from first-class cricket before the start of last season following a dispute over the publication of his autobiography, yesterday confirmed he had been approached by the World

Cup winners.
"It's very flattering, and we

- now back in the England fold

unbroken 39-run partnership

with Dean Headley and sealed

the win with a four off the seam-

er Brad McNamara to extend

the tourists' unbeaten run to

seven matches.

Imran Khan earlier this year. "I've always wanted to put something back into the game and this would be a great op-portunity," Lamb said. "It would have been nice to get involved with England but no one has spoken to me about that, which is disappointing."

If Lamb is appointed, he will are now in the process of ne-gotiating," said the former who recently took up a position Northamptonshire captain with Lancashire.

\_9 13 3 21 81 91 \_7 11 6 20 62 72

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Chicago ..... St Louis ....

PACIFIC DIVISION

**Motor racing** 

Ford completed their driver line-up for the British Touring Car Championship yesterday with the announcement that the 34-year-old New Zealander Paul Radigich will part-

## Did not bat: "G R J Meithews, G R Robertson, S Netharase, Ralls 1.-32, 2-14. Did not bet: P M Such. Berling: Nitures 8-0-41-0; Thompson 10-0-41-1; Let 10-0-47-0; Robertson 10-0-46-4; Mc-Namera 5.3-1-25-0; Bayles 8-2-29-0. Useptres; I Thomas and A Morgan.

South Wales reach 243 for 6 in

their 50 overs with a brilliant 113

off 103 balls, including eight

fours and a huge six off Giles.

#### SPORTING DIGEST

**Adey returns for Panthers** 

Paul Adey has given Notting-ham Panthers a fillip before their Benson & Hedges Cup final with Ayr Scottish Eagles tomorrow. The forward has been cleared to return to the side after recovering from a broken hand sustained when on duty for

Great Britain last month. In the absence of the Canadian-born 33-year-old, Panthers have slumped to one off the bottom of the Superleague after six successive defeats. "I could have played Paul banned for fighting.

London Towers can still avoid

a midwinter trip to Moscow if

they win next Wednesday's final

game in their European Cup

qualifying group against Marc Kormend in Hungary, writes

Wednesday's 71-58 victory

over Podgorica, of Yugoslavia.

guaranteed London fourth po-

sition in the group and a place

in the last 32 knock-out stage.

But unless London can beat Ko-

rmend, third behind group win-

ners Verona (Italy) and second

placed PTT Ankara (Turkey).

they will have to face Saratov

from the Russian capital.

Richard Taylor.

**Towers aim to miss Moscow** 

Victory will condemn the scoring from almost 70 per

Hungarians to a trip to Moscow cent of his shots.

against Sheffield on Tuesday, but kept him back to ensure he is 100 per cent fit," the Panthers coach, Mike Blaisdell, said. "He is very important to us."

The defencemen Darrly Olsen and the forward duo of Simon Hunt and Randall Weber will also be back, although Marc Twaite is expected to miss the game with a groin problem. Avr say that they have authorisation from the Superleague chairman, David Temme, allowing Ryan Kummu to play even though he is currently

and earn London less formidable opposition in Torpan Po-

London fell back on resolute

defence for Wednesday's win as

the Yugoslavs recovered from 17

points down to trail by just five.

Kevin Cadle, London's coach, said: "Our offence became stuck

in the second half, but we de-

fended consistently and took

Leicester Riders' American

centre, Justin Phoenix, is the

Budweiser League player of

the month for November. Tom

Hancock, Newcastle Eagles'

coach, has claimed the coach's

award. Phoenix is the League's

second most accurate shooter.

away their penetration."

Basketbail

Baskethall
The Cleveland Cavaliers equalled the best defensive record in NBA history on Wednesday when they beat the Oriando Magic 84-57. The Magic's previous lowest points scored record was 76, most recently in a three-point win at Indiana on 23 November.

NBA: Denort 100 Attoria 90; Marmi 101 Delas 79; New York 108 New Jacosy 102; Ceveland 84 Oriando 57; Usah 101 La Lakers 75; Houston 94 Socion 89; San Amonio 113 Philadebha 103; Phoena 118 Gotton Sotta 87; Indiana 127 Vancouver 80.

EUROLEAGUE Group to Dynamo Moscor 79

The South African fast bowler Altan Don-aid has dismissed fears that a heel in-jury could Jeopardism his return to Waruckshare next summer: "There's no real problem and it's certainty not ca-reer-threatening," said Donald following his early return home after playing in two Tests in the current series in India. Football

Motherwell have signed the Finnish mid-fielder Joni Lehtonen until the end of

Enzo Scifo, the Belgium captain, is to miss the World Cup qualifier in the Netherlands on 14 December because a toe he fractured two months ago has now become infected.

TODAY'S NUMBER

543

The 26-year-old appearance record for Coventry City. which is held by George Curtis and will, barring injury, be broken by goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic in the home game against Middlesbrough on 28 December.

All Termann pers 10. 29, Maintaeu 15, 54, Al Monadol 15, Al Jalber 52 Bristand of the 10 to pen 901 kra 2 (Na) 37, Sebber 711.

BITEINATIONAL FREIDILY (Behrutt: Lettanon 4 (Grazanan 70, Histal 73, Laha 78, Harnado 90) George 2 (Hariwa 58, Nikrados 677).

WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTES: European Champiteus' League Group & Aussine 2 Rengers 1: GC Zuncto 0 Agst. 1. Group 8: Attendo Madda 1 Widdew Lott 0: Boussau Dommund 5 Steaua Bachwest 3, Group C. Juvernus 2 Fenertoshee G. Rapid Venne 0 Man Und 2. Group 9: Alberto Madda 1 Rosenborg 80 & Jirk Gothenburg 0 FC Porto 2, FA Carling Premierabler Aronal 3 Southurpton 1: West Hard 0 Aston Vida 2. National 46 Feetball League First Division; Stoke 1 Charlton 0, Bert's sectifish league Second Olivianon-Harmiton 5 Brechm 1. FA Unitive Truphy Third qualifying round traphyse Newport AFC 4 Cambridge (Ryl 1 Sibelbury 2 Harma Borough 1. Heißtend League First Division; Stoke 1 Charlton 0. Bert's sectifish league Second Olivianon-Harmiton 5 Brechm 1. Fa Unitive Truphy Third qualifying rounds replayer Newport AFC 4 Cambridge (Ryl 1 Sibelbury 2 Harma Borough 1. Heißtend League First Division; Stoke 1 Charlton 6 Brechm 1. Challenge Cap third remain Accompton Stanley 4 Fection 1. Screenftz Division For Stanley 1 Fection 1. Screenftz Division for 1 Challenge First Division Cap third remain Accompton Stanley 4 Fection 1. Screenftz Division For Stanley 1 Fection 1. Screenftz Division For Stanley 1 Federation From 1 Hardenstein Cap the Cap 1 Hardenstein Cap 1 Stanley 1 Federation From 1 Hardenstein Cap 1 Stanley 1 Stanley 1 Stanley 1 Stanley 1 Stanley 1 Federation From 1 Hardenstein Cap 1 Stanley 1 Stanley 1

Thomas Biom, who became the first Danish player to win on the Europe World Invitational in September, has be-come the 32nd recipient of the covet-ed Sir Henry Cotton Rookle of the Year

76 74; A Tomes Aug 71 73 77.

ZIMBLEWE OPEN (Harran)Landing firstround scores (SA welcars stated); 65 S vanVusser; D Terbinche, 67 S van der Marrie
Rem), 88 M Price Zim. 89 M Cayeux (Zim);
A Pits (LSI; D Fours, 70 N Kamungszern, IZm);
J Krigssor, I Hachtigs; C Wholeker, 71 D Pappes; M Marriess: B Vervey sr. J Hobder; R Drayer; J Stach (Zim), 72 M McNuty (Zim); 5 Hobder;
I Choids (Marri); 6 Red; D Bones; A do Shak (Br);
M Scholz: A Rossoff; B Vangsor; B Vervey jr.
A Pain C Louer; S Walteren, 73 I Pakret; H Stocch; T Johnstone (Zim), 74 G Levenson.

ice hockey EASTERN CONFERENCE

**\_16 4 6 38 79 51**. Philadelphia .......14 12 2 30 75 75 ....13 10 1 27 59 **80** \_\_\_\_13 12 1 27 69 66 NY Rengers ......10 13 5 25 91 81 \_\_\_7 10 8 22 63 68 Tampa Say \_\_\_\_\_ 7 15 2 16 67 80

ner Will Hoy. Radisson, who won the pres-tigious FIA fouring Car World Cup in 1993 and 1994, had been tinked with Honda, Renault and Audi, but decided to re-sign

Rugby Union Rugfly Union
SCOTLARD SQUAD (v tasky, Marrayfield, 1A Decearshort Backer, R. Erfusion (London Scottist).
S. Hastings (Welsonvers). K. Logan (String Courty). D. Pathersane (Herfur) F.P. B. Redhatth, R.
Steephard, D. Starti, C. Chalimeer (All Meirose).
A. Skeeger (Howled, G. Townsond, Northamport, Capit, (Howled, G. Townsond, R. Read (Bott)
Welspal, G. Etts. Carrie, D. Pfalm, E. Pelens stoth
(Chouceasts), B. Shewart, Coronagh, Accidentally, M.
Szemart, R. Stringson). M. Wellace (Respon

NAMENDRA INTERNATIONAL (Boodwy) Quarte-finet R Cytes (Aust by P Gregory (Gr 15-8 25-15). 15-7: M Camer Greg by O Riyan (dr) 13-15-15-7 15-12 15-4; S Peste Greg by Zuber Jetten Park 15-11 15-17-7-15 15-7 15-4; P Neor (Sco) b A Berada (Eg 13-15 17-15 15-7 15-10.

Monica Seles plans to defend her Australian Open title in January despite her troublesome shoulder injury. Seles was forced out of the Komerchi Banka Open

shoulder gave out once again. If have played my last exhibition and now I will relax and rest up to be ready for the Australian Open which I can't miss," she said yesterday.

said yestarday.

Britain evoided relegation from the Champions Division by beating the Stovak Republic 2-0 in the European Men's Team Championship at Reggio Calabra, Italy, yestarday. Andrew Richardson, the Lincolnshire left-hander, beat Tomas Catar 6-4, 6-1 in the opening rubber. Then Danny Sapsford, the British No 4 from Weybridge, cliniched victory by defeating Martin Homec 6-3, 7-6 in the top singles, although the Surrey player only won the te-break set 10-8.

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football

PA CLP SECOND ROUND
Plymouth Argyle v Engter City (7.45)....
UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Visitors Burgess (11) "Three Bridges (7.30).
LEAGUE OF WALES: Lansantifraid v Ebow

FA YOUTH CUP Second round: Botton War

DuckCity by Alan Snow Spot the Duck-Standuck A.T.D. Roboduck Duck ab. Snip-Snip-Slugfarm PC/MAC CDROM/RRP £14.99/OUT NOW visit me at: www.duckcity.com

## لكذا من ألاصل

Lessons learned Glenn Moore on English progress in Europe, page 30 sport

Sir John's rethink Mr Newcastle losing interest in rugby union, page 31





Henman: On his way to the semi-finals yesterday

## Henman sets up showdown with Becker

ADRIAN WARNER reports from Munich

Tim Henman, serving superbly and showing no sign of nerves until the closing stages, beat American Mali Vai Washington 7-6, 6-3 to reach the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup here yesterday, a victory that doubled his prize-money

The 22-year-old British No 1

£260.000 from this tournament aione and still has a chance of a winning the first prize of

But to do that he will have arguably his toughest test of his career: trying to beat the three-times Wimbledon champion, Boris Becker, in a best of five sets semi-final tomorrow.

"This is definitely one of my best victories, indoors or outdoors. I played particularly well

is now assured of more than but this match is definitely up there with my best performances," said Henman who is relishing the prospect of playing Becker.

I'm aware of the money. Make no bones about it. But what is more important is that I am playing Boris Becker in his home town over five sets on Saturday and I don't think you can get much better than that.

Perhaps playing him on the Centre Court at Wimbledon

his home, according to him." The German, who sent Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek back into retirement with a

quick 6-4, 6-1 victory, is one of the greatest indoor players in history and will have 10,000 partisan spectators willing him to

Henman, however, will not be too concerned. He was not even in this event on Sunday. coming in following the withdrawals of Pete Sampras and Michael Chang. And he has

1991 Wimbledon champion, and Washington, both in straight sets.

His achievement in reaching the last four of this lucrative event is another fine performance by the most talented player that Britain has produced since Roger Taylor.

Certainly Henman completely outplayed Washington until he missed a match point and then dropped his service when serving for the match at

now beaten Michael Stich, the 5-1 in the second set. It was only a temporary blip though Washington pulled back to 3-5.

Henman, serving for the match for a second time, did not make the same mistake. He reached 40-15 and then forced yet another error from a demoralised Washington to win the contest after 75 minutes.

Henman's service was a revelation. It has been improving month by month but today he sent down 19 aces and repeat-

mph. This is close to Gree Rusedski's fastest deliveries and Rusedski has nothing like the

rest of Hennan's all-court games.
Even though the first set went to a tie-break Washington. always looked the likeliest man to lose it. Henman dropped only five points in six service games in that opening set and then won the tie-break 7-3 after 40 min-

utes of play.

compag grants is acted for management of the play.

compaged from the plane of th

## **England tour** lurches into disaster zone

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN reports from Harare England 197 & 180 Mashonaland 280 & 98-3 Mashonaland win by 7 wkts

England's tour of Zimbabwe reached an early crisis point here yesterday as the humiliating seven-wicket defeat against Mashonaland brought into sharp focus the huge problems facing the team,

This winter's tour of Zimbahwe and New Zealand is in-tended to produce and forge a — with Atherton and the Engside capable of taking the Ashes back from Australia next summer. But, 10 days into the trip, two matches have been lost and almost everything has gone wrong for an England side short on confidence and inspiration and arguably denied proper preparation time by the tour planners at Lord's.

The opening four-day fixture finished a day early because England proved unable to build a decent total - not once but twice. Their bowling resources currently seem slim, too, and England now have only a oneday and a four-day fixture with quite correct to point out that the

which to warm up for the international matches against

Mike Atherton, the England captain, admitted last night that his team are still "pretty rusty" but he refused to accept that, with hindsight, his players could have done with more cricket preparation before the tour and also more time to acclimatise to the heat and altitude of Zimbabwe.

During a week-long trip to Portugal in early November the England players did not do land management insisting that they would be a better and more consistent side in the long run if they were first to improve their basic fitness levels.

Ironically, Atherton's own fitness has been compromised early on by illness and now by back worries - but the 28-year-old Lancashire batsman's main priority now must be to pick his side up after such a poor perfor-mance. Mashonaland 1996 will now take its place alongside the many other recent England cricketing embarcassments - although Atherton was quick and

Matabeleland next week in Zimbabwean provincial side featured six Test players and were not "just amateurs and chicken farmers, as some sections of the

media are suggesting."
The only England players to gain anything from the match were the spinners, Phil Tufnell and Robert Croft, and the batsman John Crawley, whose 74 yesterday at least gave England hope at one stage of being able to set Mashonaland some sort of target. Crawley's only mistake was to try to hit Gary Brent over mid-off in the last over before tea - a soft end to a 165-ball innings that had included a six and five fours,

England's top-order batting is desperately short of runs, with Atherton and Nick Knight particularly starved with just nine and 16 runs from three innings respectively. "There are jots of things to be worked on and at the moment we need as much cricket as we can get," the cap-tain said. The Mashonaland team rejected an England request for a one-day match today, however, and now Atherton's squad will have a full-scale practice match at the nearby Alexandre Sports Ground in Harare.

England A win again, page 31



Mashonaland's Paul Strang traps Nasser Hussain leg before for 39 during England's sorry defeat yesterday

Photograph: Stu Forster/Allsnort

#### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3163. Friday 6 Decemb

**ACROSS** One always spoiling for a

fight? (5, 8) 10 It's enough to make one peer (7)

11 Open quality of vessel to 12 Pudding's like oil (5) 13 Farce and bind, getting in

drinks (9) 14 Glowing factor in a gem? Beryl? (5) 16 Main (slang) betrayed

naval type (9) 18 Endless conjecture? Call in arbiter, then (9)
19 With Queen taken, guar-

antee result (5) 20 Kept off soil in a plot (9) 23 Debtor holding Diamonds 8 is a gambler (5)

24 Send cask back and order

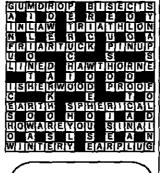
more bananas (7)

25 He won't thank you for gin cocktail at a price (7) 26 Astutely elected, the box reported? Moderately (13)

2 Artist producing fiddle sound (9) Facing pursuers by sea? (2,

Proper Sunday gatherings Figure heard to scuttle and scramble (9)

shad (9) Girl, one set up to skip shortly (5) Little fellow has balance:



Friendly reception with fish, round North, grilled

Wretched dearth (apparently) round East? (6-7)

beel (9) 17 It gave one quite a turn or two (5, 4)
21 Bill's upturned mug (3, 2) Faring, using track round recipe in virtuous person's control (4-9) home (5)

15 Pump again? Note one found in defunct colliery Disciplined under Col.'s

23 Girl needs drink? Help

yourself (3, 2)

Harare Sports Club scoreboard Bowling: Kirtley 16-6-35-2; B C Strang 11-5-18-0; Brent 10-3-22-4; P A Strang

Third day of four, England won toss ENGLAND - First innings 197 (R D B Croft 80no; R J Kirtley 5-53). MASHONALAND - First innings

D Matambenedao not out R J Kirtley lbw b Tufnell .... Total (85.4 overs) Bowling: Mullally 12-2-42-0; Gough 16-3-43-1; Caddick 10-2-46-0; Tufnell 25.4-7-78-5; Croft 22-4-65-4.

ENGLAND - Second Immings
N V Kneint c D Cempbell b Kintley ......3
\*M A Atherton c D Cempbell b Brent ...7

Extras (166, nb2) .... Total (71.1 overs) Ret 1-4, 2-4, 3-27, 4-29, 5-105, 6-111, 7-137, 8-159, 9-167.

23.1-6-56-4; Flower 11-2-43-0. MASHONALAND - Second Imings G W Flower c Crawley b Mullaby ..... S V Carlisle b Mullaby ......

Felt: 1-6, 2-11, 3-95.

o, P A Strang, B C Strang, G B Brent, R J Kirtley, Bowling: Multally 6-1-18-2; Gough 3-0-14-0; Tufnell 9-1-35-0; Croft 6.3-0-23-

Did not bot: †D J R Campbell, D Matam

0; Thorpe 1-0-3-1. Unnolres: K Kanice and D Kalan. MASHONALAND WON BY 7 WICKETS ENGLAND'S NEXT TWO FIXTURES: Sunday: One-day match v Matabeleland (at Quean's Club, Bulawayo). 10-13 Dec: Three-day match v Matabeleland (at

## Captain 'may have screw loose'

Fears that Mike Atherton could have a screw loose were eased yesterday when the England captain insisted that his latest back trouble is "nothing to

worry about". Atherton, dismissed for seven against Mashonaland, has now scored just nine runs in his three tour innings. However, he has rejected the theory that his increased back pain during the last week has affected his bat-

ting form. Atherton, who went for a precautionary X-ray on his back in Harare, said: "I am fine and I have no excuses for a bad performance. The back's not been

too good for the past couple of

"But for me this tour so far has just been about not being in the middle long enough to know whether I'm in form or not. I think my record speaks for itself and all I need is a couple of hours at the crease."

England's physiotherapist, Wayne Morton, accompanied Atherton to his check-up and said later: "We wanted to make sure that the screw which Mike had inserted in his spine during a back operation five years ago has not worked loose.

"We get the X-ray results tomorrow but provisionally every-

thing looks good. I believe that part of the reason Mike has been so stiff for the past few days is that he has not been well because of the flu virus he brought with him from England.

"He has been suffering fr diarrhoea and I don't think that his body has absorbed the daily painkillers and anti-inflammatory tablets that he takes."

Atherton, as if to underline his confidence in his fitness, had a net after returning from the precautionary X-ray and then led England on the field but was unable to do anything about the disastrous three-day defeat by Mashonaland.

## Liverpool launch football academy

Football

Liverpool yesterday launched Britain's first club-based football academy as their Merseyside rivals, Everton, contemplated

leaving Goodison Park. While Everton are considering plans to relocate to a new stadium, leaving the home they have had since 1892, Liverpool are following in the footsteps of Ajax and Auxerre, who have both qualified for the quarterfinals of the Champions' Cup. The Anfield club have

bought 55 acres of council land in Kirkby, on which they will build a state of the art facility with 10 pitches and accommodation for players as young as

eight years old. Work is due to ers can be nurtured and develstart in the spring with the

doors ready to open at the be-ginning of the 1998-99 season. The Liverpool manager, Roy Evans, said: "Although the major input of youngsters will still be drawn from the North-west, the new centre will allow us to develop the best players from all over the world. The importance of this side of the club's activities cannot be overstated.

Today is great step forward." The academy will be under the direct control of the director of youth. Steve Heighway. He said: If you believe that young playoped, then you put everything into place to ensure there is nothing to impede that process. I believe the new facility will enable us to do all we possibly can, from recruitment and coaching to the

provision of accommodation." Liverpool's chief executive and vice-chairman, Peter Robinson, said: "We believe it will be vital in the future that the club is able to produce as many of its own players as possible, as a consequence of the Bosman

judgement."
The Everton chairman, Peter Johnson, yesterday revealed

IT RISES TO EVERY OCCASION

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that his club believes Goodison Park has become outdated in the wake of the Taylor Report.

"Money has been made available to other clubs and so you now see some beautiful stands around," Johnson said. Our problem is that we are very much landlocked and our capacity of 40,000 could well suffer if we made major changes to two of our stands,

That would be a problem. "I'm not at all happy about the facilities we have behind us.

I think it has suffered for being so far advanced compared to any other stadium in the past. It really was a beautiful stadium."

Johnson, speaking on Radio 5 Live, added that relocation for the club "is a possibility". "I can see the European league coming. I'm not sure what the structure would be but I do believe that is the direction we will take. And of course, once we get into Europe there is going to be even more television money. "That is why it is so import

tant to address the stadium is sue because when going into Europe I think you will want the big clubs, with the big grounds and the big followings.

Everton, who would encounter stiff opposition to a move from their traditional home from supporters, would probably move to the outskirts of Liverpool alongside the M57.



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glass when you open at!

